

CHRISTMAS 2022

Deacon Rev. Liam Dunne

The Tradition of the Christmas Crèche

Pope Francis

When at Christmas we place the statue of the infant Jesus in the manger, the nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power that creates and transforms all things. It seems impossible, yet it is true: in Jesus, God was a child and in this way he wished to reveal the greatness of his love.

The birth of a child awakens joy and wonder; it sets before us the great mystery of life. Seeing the bright eyes of a young couple gazing at their newborn child, we can understand the feelings of Mary and Joseph who, as they looked at their infant Jesus, sensed God's presence in their lives. *That life was made visible* (1 Jn 1:2). In these words, the Apostle John sums up the mystery of the incarnation. The crèche allows us to see and touch this unique and un-paralleled event that changed the course of history, so that time would thereafter be reckoned either before or after the birth of Christ....

Standing before the Christmas crèche, we are reminded of the time when we were children, eagerly waiting to set it up. These memories make us all the more conscious of the precious gift received from those who passed on the faith to us. At the same time they remind us of our duty to share this same experience with our children and grandchildren. It does not matter how the nativity scene is arranged: it can always be the same or it can change from year to year. What matters is that it speaks to our lives. Wherever it is and whatever form it takes, the Christmas crèche speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman, and child May we open our hearts to this simple grace, so that from our wonderment a humble prayer may arise: a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us his all, and thus never to leave us alone.

A MESSAGE FROM AN GARDA SIOCHANA

An Garda Siochana wish to warn people of a doorstep fraud and theft offence which has become prevalent over the last number of weeks. Elderly People are being targeted at their homes by Criminals who are impersonating Gardaí. The offenders are fraudulently pretending to be plain clothes Gardaí who are checking for dud money. They have duped people all around the country and stolen their cash on the pretence of checking to see if it is genuine money. They are producing false identification to assist the process.

ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE & RADIO

www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam **Radio 104.3 fm**

Parish Office – Mon-Fri: 10 am – 1 pm - 059 9161114

Email: office@rathvillykilteganparish.ie Website: www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie

Registered Charity Number 20015848

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie Parish Radio 104.3 fm

Local Safeguarding Reps: Eoin Cheasty Mary Phelan Elizabeth Austin David Carton

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding: Ms Kathleen Sherry Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

**St. Brigid's
Talbotstown**

**St. Patrick's
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption
Tynock**

CHRISTMAS 2022

Recent Deaths: Fr Denis Murphy, Doonane, Crettyard
Rita Byrne, nee Nolan, Clontarf and formerly of Rathvilly

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 24th & 25th December

Fr. Edward Flood, former Parish Priest	Jim Dempsey, Rathvilly
Fr. Nicholas Cullen, former Parish Priest	Gerard Cullen, Dublin
Matthew & Margaret Byrne, Ballymanus	

Sat/Sun, 31st December/1st January

Margaret & Darren Ludkins, Coole	Mary Plant, Rahill
Sheila Fitzpatrick, Mount Kelly	Ann O'Connor nee Plant, Rahill
Joe McCall, Bough	Harry & Bridget Byrne, Fr. Cullen Tce.
James & Teresa McGuire, Lacken, Blessington	Una & Gerry Brennan, Rathvilly
Johnnie McGuire, Lacken, Blessington	Molly Lawlor, St. Patrick's Park
Liam Lawlor Phelan Street & deceased family members	
Paddy & Elizabeth Kelly, Ricketstown & deceased family members	

Sat/Sun, 7th & 8th January

William Smith, Monavothé	Eileen Balfe, Rahill
Peter Smith, St. Patrick's Park	Christina Balfe, Rahill

MASS TIMES FOR TWO WEEKS

Christmas Eve – Mass at 7.00 p.m. in Rathvilly and 9.00 p.m. in Tynock.

Christmas Day – Mass at 10.00 a.m. in Talbotstown and 11.15 a.m. in Rathvilly.

No Mass on Monday, 26th December.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 27-30 Dec. - **Mass at 11.00 a.m.**

Friday, 30th December is the Feast of the Holy Family

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 2-4th Jan – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Thursday, 5th Jan – Vigil Mass for the Holy Day at 7.30 p.m.

Friday, 6th January – The Epiphany – Mass in **Tynock 9.45am**

Rathvilly 11.30 am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – No Adoration on Thursday, 29th December.
Adoration will resume on Thursday, 5th January.

Church of the Assumption, Tynock

Mass on Sunday, 1st January at 9.30 a.m. Reader: Lucilla Brophy.

Holy Day of Obligation - Friday, 6th January Mass at 9.45 a.m.

St. Brigid's Church, Talbotstown

Mass on Sunday, 8th January at 9.30 a.m. Reader: Joe O'Brien.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

Approaching the end of 2022 (a very challenging year), we offer our sincere thanks to all who voluntarily give of their time and talent in supporting the activities in the Churches of the parish. Wishing you all the joys and peace of Christmas and a New Year of happiness and prosperity.

We acknowledge the special work of our secretary, the sacristans and Church music people. In addition, special thanks are due to the flower arrangers, Church cleaners, distributors of envelopes, stewards and those in the ministries of reading or helping in the distribution of Holy Communion. We resumed having Altar Servers in recent months; we hope to add to their numbers early in the New Year. We express our gratitude to all parishioners for the support of your presence at our liturgies and to all who support financially the work of the parish and of priests and retired priests of the parish.

Three years have gone since we first heard of Covid-19 and its potentially devastating effects. We lovingly remember all who have died from the virus. We continue to be careful, while being grateful that a more normal situation has now returned for worshippers.

Rev. Canon Robert Jones, a Rathvilly native, Rector of the Kiltegan group of Parishes for the past 5 years, is moving into retirement in the New Year. We thank him for his friendship and support for all ecumenical and community efforts and wish him well for this new stage of his life.

Msgr John McEvoy, Fr Pat O'Brien SPS and Deacon Liam Dunne

PARISH LOTTO (Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto Draw)

Results for 21st December, 2022 Numbers: 07 – 17 – 18 – 32.

No Jackpot winner of €15,000 9 Match 3s get €112.00

One local winner this week. Winner – Moira Cales. Promoter – Tommy Donovan.

The draw takes place each Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise.

On **Wednesday, 4th January the Jackpot is €16,000.** Tickets €2.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. Full results on our website.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 17th & 18th December, 2022

We thank all our parishioners who contribute to the weekly Collections.

Rathvilly: Offertory €219.76

Envelopes €627.50

Kiltegan: Offertory €125.82

Envelopes €331.00

COMMUNITY GARDEN RAFFLE

A big thank you to all the Sponsors, Sellers and also all those who bought lines for the Community Garden Christmas Raffle. The winners are as follows:

€100 – Fiona Fenton €50 – Ashling Carlos Brennans Hamper: Mary Donoghue

Chocolate Garden Hamper – Harry Worth Bottle of Baileys – Bernie Lawlor

Wine Hamper – Josie Havelin Rathvilly Garden Centre Certificate – Michael Nolan

Gift Set – Charlotte Wall Gift Set – Seamus Osborne Writing Set – Leo Foley

Apron – Suzanne Byrne

Promoters Prize – Dave Saruwatari.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP NULTY – Please take a copy.

Deacon Rev. Liam Dunne prepared a Christmas leaflet. Please take a copy.

WEEKLY ENVELOPES 2023

Weekly Envelopes Boxes are being distributed to families in the Parish. If you do not receive a box and would like to contribute to our Parish, there are boxes available in the Church or contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your support.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sunday, 8th January is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. At Mass we will remember all the children baptised during 2022. Families are invited to attend the Mass in Talbotstown at 9.30 am & Rathvilly at 11 am. There will be a special blessing for the children. Baptismal Certificates will be available after Mass.

RATHVILLY COMMUNITY ALERT

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year. We hope you will be keeping a close eye on all elderly relatives and anyone who is living alone in your neighbourhood, to make sure they are keeping warm and taking their medications.

Don't forget to keep your mobile phone charged up and in a good place to receive a signal so that notifications can reach you. Check your phone regularly.

It cannot be stressed enough to people who are out walking that they must wear clothing – such as a high-viz jacket, that is visible to motorists both day and night. If children are on bicycles they should be wearing high-viz jackets also, even during the day. It is not possible for motorists to see walkers/joggers/cyclists on roads on dull days, and especially in hours of darkness. **Wearing a high-viz jacket can save your life.** We would also like to remind dog-owners to be responsible about their dogs and keep them locked up at night.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 2 - 16 - 18 - 26

Angela O'Reilly, Baltinglass 16-18-19-26

Brennan's Centra

Martin Curran, Fr. Cullen Terrace 6-16-18-26

Martin Curran

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Brennan's Centra, Rathvilly.

Next draw 28 Dec 2022 **Jackpot €20,000.** Thank you for all your support.

Traditional Extra Christmas Draw – Five Share €150: Mary Donegan, Mount Neill;

Nancy Boland c/o Brennan's Centra; Ian Curran, 42 Slaney Bank;

T+A Lawlor, St. Patrick's Park; and Peter O'Neill, 5 Slaney Bank, Rathvilly.

The committee would like to thank everybody for their support to the Club Lotto during the year and wish one and all a **Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.**

RATHVILLY G.A.A. CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 10-16-20-30

Daniel Curren Woodgrove 10-16-23-30

On Line winner

Kitty Kennedy Ballybit 2-10-20-30

Mick Kehoe

Christmas Lucky Dips: Peadar Doyle Knockavagh, Julie Byrne

Williamstown, Andy Byrne Slaney Bank, Martin Morrissey Rathvilly,

Andrea Geraghty Baltinglass.

Next draw 27 Dec. 2022. **Jackpot €7,900**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, Rathvilly/Kiltegan - 083 1494412