

Third Sunday of advent Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

John 1:6-8; 19-28 Testify to the light

Last Sunday we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, this time from the Fourth Gospel, the Gospel of John. Because Mark gives us very little detail about John the Baptist we turn to John the evangelist to hear the Baptist's testimony. Light and darkness is a key theme of the Fourth Gospel and in its opening verses it proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us of John the Baptist's mission: he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is the light bearer; he is not the light. He is a witness to the light of God in the world, a light that cannot be put out. The priests and the Levites want to know who John the Baptist is and what he is doing baptising people in the Jordan. John is calling people to a change of heart, to a new way of living.

There is much darkness in our world, many wildernesses to navigate in our society, in our communities and in our relationships with one another. From time to time, someone comes on the scene to shine a light into that darkness. A mediator steps into a family feud, a young climate activist ignites a global movement, millions of young people become politically engaged, a mentor gives the right advice at just the right time, a friend makes a phone call that brightens up someone's day, a community opens their hearts to refugees. We all experience wilderness in our lives at various times. When in these desert spaces remember that God's grace can come at any moment. Somewhere in the dark, a light shines that the darkness cannot overcome. We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday – *Gaudete* means 'rejoice'. We light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy.

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"There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it. Amanda Gorman

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: 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

16th & 17th December, 2023

St. Patrick's

Rathvilly

The Assumption

Tynock

3rd Sunday of Advent

Recent Deaths: George Byrne, The Moate
Peggy Ryan nee Grant, Galway and formerly Kiltegan

Months Mind Mass for Brigid Reilly, Collins Park this weekend

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 16th & 17th December

Joe McGuirk, Ricketstown

Eamonn Lawlor, Coole

Jim Doyle, Coole

Denis & Mary Kelly, Haroldstown

Thomas & Bridie Kehoe, Ballyoliver

Patsy & Breda Molloy, Rathvilly

Paddy Donoghue, Kevin Barry Road

Bill Gahan, 25 Collins Park

Fr. Nicholas Cullen former Parish Priest

Nicholas & Margaret Abbott, Ballyoliver

Mary & Richard Canavan

Breda Brennan

Tommy Kelly, Ballyoliver

Jackie Kelly late of Ballyoliver & Manchester

Raymond Kelly, Manchester

Months Mind Mass for Mary McGrath, Oldtown on Saturday, 23rd December

Sat/Sun, 23rd & 24th December

Fr. Edward Flood former Parish Priest

Michael & Elizabeth Deering, Ballybit

Matthew & Margaret Byrne, Ballymanus

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RATHVILLY

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – each Friday from 4.00 – 7.00 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Saturday, 16th December – Mass at 6.00 p.m.

Reader: Nigel Byrne.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Saturday, 23rd December – Mass at 6.00 p.m.

Reader: Breedh Murphy.

Mass for Advent - Monday, 18th December – Mass at 9.45 a.m.

ADVENT – WEEK THREE – Waiting in Hope Longing for Peace

See separate leaflet in the Church or on our Parish Website.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Thank you to all who contributed to the recent St. Vincent de Paul Collection.
If you would like to make a donation, you can put it in an envelope marked SVP and put it into the weekly collection Box or leave it into the Parish Office.

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

CHRISTMAS PENANCE SERVICE

BALTINGLASS – Wednesday, 20th December at 7.30 p.m.

RATHVILLY - Friday, 22nd December in St. Patrick's Church at 7.30 p.m.

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH - CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday, 23rd December –

Talbotstown Church – Mass at 6.00 p.m. Rathvilly Church – Mass at 7.30 p.m.

Sunday, 24th December – Rathvilly Church – Mass at 11.00 a.m.

Christmas Eve – The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ -

Rathvilly Church – Mass at 6.00 p.m. Talbotstown Church – Mass at 8.00 p.m.

Christmas Day, 25th December

Mass in Tynock Church at 10.00 a.m. Rathvilly Church at 11.30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES – BALTINGLASS PARISH

Christmas Eve (24th): 6pm Baltinglass & 8pm Grangecon

Christmas Day (25th): 9.30am Stratford & 11am Baltinglass

RATHVILLY/BALTINGLASS PARISH CLUSTER

CANDLELIGHT PRAYER FOR PEACE

This Advent the parishes of Rathvilly and Baltinglass come together to pray for peace especially in the Middle East and Ukraine at 7.30pm as follows:

St. Joseph's Church, Baltinglass on Wednesday, 20th December at 7.30 p.m.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 9th & 10th December

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €229.51

Envelopes €572.95

Kiltegan: Offertory €452.29

Envelopes €520.80

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

Results for 13th December, 2023 No Jackpot winner of €11,000.

Numbers: 01 – 02 – 19 – 32. 11 Match 3 numbers and get €91.00 each.

One local winner – Rody & Flynn McEvoy. Promoter – Fr. McEvoy.

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

On Wednesday, 20th December the Jackpot is €12,000. Tickets €2.

Thank you for supporting the lotto each week. New promoters welcome.

RATHVILLY NS

School Calendars on sale in aid of St. Patrick's National school Parents

Association. Available from school, Post office and Centra shop.

Would make an ideal Christmas gift. Only €10.

RATHVILLY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Rathvilly Community Centre Committee will hold its AGM on the 8th January 2024 in Lawlor's Bar at 7.30pm. Nominations for executive positions should be sent to Brian O'Donoghue by 5pm on 29th December 2023, via email info@rathvillycc.ie or in writing to Williamstown, Rathvilly. Co. Carlow. Nominations are sought for chairperson, secretary, joint treasurers, vice chair and assistant secretary. Open invite to anyone interested in seeing the future plans for the School House Community and Enterprise Centre, please come along and show your support.

Enjoy this year's digital Advent 2023 calendar on catholicbishops.ie

To celebrate this holy season, the 2023 digital Advent calendar on the homepage of www.catholicbishops.ie, offers user-friendly resources for schools, parishes and in the home. Each day, open virtual double-doors to reveal short video and audio messages, seasonal crafts and prayers, to assist people of all ages in keeping Christ at the centre of our Christmas preparations - visit www.catholicbishops.ie

SYNOD NEWS

Work is beginning towards the next phase of the Synod and the Second General Assembly in Rome next October. There is a dedicated page on the diocesan website: www.kandle/synod where you can keep up to date. You can also find plenty of information at www.synod.ie and on the Vatican website, www.synod.va.

GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO – Tuesday, 19th Dec. St. Fiacc's Hall @ 8.30pm.

Over €8000 in prizemoney to be won in time for Christmas!

Jackpot on 43 numbers €1090 Double number €460 Lotto €3250

FREE PINK SHEET with every book (2 free with double book)

Chocolates left & right of the winner. Bingo will resume 2nd January 2024.

RATHVILLY G.A.A. CLUB

Lotto results. No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 11. 16. 18. 22

Match 3 win or share. €150

Tony Carthy Slaney Bank 4. 11. 16. 22. Online winner.

Next draw. 19 Dec. 2023 **Jackpot €5,800**

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 9 - 18 - 20 - 27

Sharon Keating 2-9-20-27

Online Winner

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Michael Kehoe, Rathvilly Post Office.

Next draw 19th. December 2023 **Jackpot €20,000.** Thank you for all your support

RAMPERE LANDFILL & RECYCLING CENTRE. BALTINGLASS

Christmas Opening Hours – Closed - December 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th & 28th.

Open - Saturday, 23rd Dec., Friday, 29th and Saturday, 30th Dec. 8.30 am – 1 p.m.

Normal Hours resume on Tuesday, 2nd January 2024.

VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO HELP IN THE PARISH

If you feel that you can help, there are forms available in each Church – Thank you.