

CHRISTMAS 2023 Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

Introduction to the Season of Christmas

In the liturgical calendar, the Season of Christmas runs from midnight (or nightfall) on 24 December and continues until the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus on the second Monday in January. During these Christmas weeks, those of us living in the northern hemisphere tend to hibernate. The earth has tilted away from the sun and, even though the winter solstice has passed on 21 December, the days are still dark and quiet, the soil is resting and our attention is drawn inwards. Many people find winter difficult; indeed, with cold weather and very little sunlight, it can be a tough time. But it is during these weeks that Christmas celebrates something amazing: God entering into humanity, putting on skin and living among us as a full human person, in a way that we still find hard to put into words. Jesus – a Palestinian Jew, who was born into a homeless family in an animal shelter in a remote part of the Roman Empire – was marginalised from the very beginning. Yet he transformed history and continues to transform our lives today.

Into all the harrowing struggles of our world, then and now, God is born. This is what these Christmas days invites us to contemplate and celebrate. Christ is born again each year in our hearts, if we can make room for him there, and in our world, if we look with awareness in ordinary places. As we light the white candle on the Advent wreath on Christmas morning let us remember what it represents: the peace, unity and hope for which the world desperately longs. We are invited to rejoice with the angels and the shepherds, joining together in praise, singing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace, good will among people”.

A note on the texts for Christmas Day: in the lectionary, there are three different Gospels that may be read on Christmas Day. At ‘Midnight’ Mass – even if it takes place before midnight – we hear the account of Jesus’ birth, including the message to the shepherds (Luke 2:15-20). For those up bright and early on Christmas Morning, at the Dawn Mass we read about the visit of the shepherds to Bethlehem (Luke 2:15-20). The Gospel reading for the Mass later in the day is taken from John’s Gospel (Jn 1:1-18).

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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

VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO HELP IN THE PARISH

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

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

**St. Brigid’s
Talbotstown**

**St. Patrick’s
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption
Tynock**

CHRISTMAS 2023

Recent Deaths: Mary Flinter nee Faulkner, Maganey and late of Bough
Evelyn Wall nee McNally, Haroldstown Kevin Barry, Tombeagh

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

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 23rd & 24th December

Fr. Edward Flood former Parish Priest Denis & Eileen Byrne, St. Patrick’s Park
Michael & Elizabeth Deering, Ballybit John Dunne, Carlow
Matthew & Margaret Byrne, Ballymanus

Sat/Sun, 30th & 31st December

Joe McCall, Bough Sheila Fitzpatrick, Mount Kelly
Una & Gerry Brennan, Rathvilly Mary Plant, Rahill
Margaret Ludkins & deceased family members Ann O’Connor nee Plant, Rahill
Molly Lawlor, St. Patrick’s Park Paddy & Nora Quinn, Roscommon
The Moore Family, Stratford on Slaney Jimmy & Gretta Fowler, Birmingham
Jim Doyle, Ricketstown
James, Teresa, John and Sarah McGuire and deceased family members

Sat/Sun, 6th & 7th January 2024

William Smith, Monavothe
Peter Smith, St. Patrick’s Park
Paddy & Elizabeth Kelly, Ricketstown & deceased family members

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

BISHOP NULTY’S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE & CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

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

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RATHVILLY

Tuesday, 26th December & Friday, 29th December – **No Mass**

Wednesday & Thursday, 27th & 28th December – Mass at 11.00 a.m.

Monday, 1st January – World Day of Prayer for Peace – Mass at 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday – Mass at 11.00 a.m.

Friday, 5th January - Vigil Mass at 7.30 p.m.

Holy Day, The Epiphany – Saturday, 6th January – Mass at 11.00 a.m.

Sunday, 31st December – Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus

The 9.30 a.m. Mass in Tynock Church and 11.00 a.m. Mass in Rathvilly Church will remember all those Baptised in the Parish during 2023.

Families are invited to attend Mass and there will be a special Blessing for the children. Baptismal Certificates will be available after Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – **No** Adoration on 29th December and 5th January. Adoration will resume on Friday, 12th January.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Friday, 5th January – Vigil Mass for the Holy Day – Mass at 6.00 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Sunday, 7th January – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – Rathvilly/Kiltegan Conference

Thank you to all who contributed to the recent St Vincent de Paul Collection.

€1743.00 was raised – Rathvilly Church €828.00 & Talbotstown Church €915.00

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

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 16th & 17th December

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €418.51 Envelopes €729.50

Kiltegan: Offertory €90.18 Envelopes €340.00

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

Results for 20th December, 2023 No Jackpot winner of €12,000.

Numbers: 07 – 21 – 27 – 31. 17 Match 3 numbers and get €59.00 each.

No local winner this week. No draw next week.

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

On **Wednesday, 3rd January the Jackpot is €13,000.** Tickets €2.

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

RATHMORE NS

Enrolment for new pupils into Junior Infants in Rathmore NS will open on January 8th 2024 and be accepted until January 26th 2024. The Admissions Notice,

Enrolment Policy and Application Forms are available from the school website

(<https://rathmorens.webador.ie>) or by contacting the school office on 0599161375

or rathmorens.ias@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE from Msgr. John McEvoy PP

As we celebrate Christmas and end 2023, I reflect on a busy year in our Rathvilly Kiltegan Parish Community. We have shared times of joy and sorrow. We have marked notable anniversaries and coped with our share of disappointments. We have marked the end of the ministry of Fr Pat O'Brien SPS on our parish team and extended our best wishes to him for the next chapter of his life in St Patrick's, Kiltegan.

I would like to wish you all and the members of your extended families every blessing of joy and happiness at Christmas and in the year 2024.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance of a great number of people in helping in our liturgies and parish celebrations. Thanks to our Secretary, Sacristan, musicians, readers, collectors, ministers, flower arrangers, parish Finance council and parish Pastoral council members and to all who assist in any way in the building up of our parish and community.

Looking forward to building on our strengths into the future as we Push out into the Deep! I invite people of all age groups to offer their services in any way you might like to help. Forging a future with our neighbouring parish of Baltinglass is a project you can all help in. Together we are stronger. Msgr J McEvoy

RATHVILLY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Rathvilly Community Centre Committee will hold its AGM on the 8th January 2024 in Lawlor's Bar at 7.30pm. Open invite to all interested in seeing the future plans for the School House Community and Enterprise Centre, please come & show your support.

RATHVILLY G.A.A. CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 5-14-19-27

Alannah Kavanagh Mountkelly 5-8-19-27 On Line winner

Declan Clarke Rathvilly 5-19-21-27 On Line winner

Christmas Bonus 5 Lucky dips

J J Smith Haroldstown, Tony Carthy Slaney Bank, Niall Donovan Kiltegan

Josie Leonard Rahill, Angela O'Reilly Baltinglass.

Next draw 27 Dec. 2023 Jackpot €5,900

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 3 – 17 – 22 – 24

Mike Foley, Kiltegan 7-17-22-24 Online Winner

Stephen O'Brien, Ricketstown 3-17-22-28 The Harp Bar

Caroline Kehoe, Mount Lucas 3-17-24-30 Brian Curran

Kathy Broughall, Fr. Cullen Terrace 3-9-17-24 The Harp Bar

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Joe Curran, Woodgrove Avenue, Rathvilly.

Next draw 27th. December 2023 **Jackpot €20,000.** Thank you for all your support.

Traditional Extra Christmas Draw – Five share €150: Mrs. Elliott c/o Michael Kehoe - Rathvilly Post Office; Paddy Dunne, Rathvilly; Sheila Ryan c/o Breda Keogh; and Trish Harmon, Kiltegan x 2.

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