

Second Sunday of advent

Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

Mark 1:1-8 The beginning of the good

On the Second Sunday of Advent we read from the ‘beginning’ of Mark’s Gospel. This opening sentence has received much attention from biblical scholars; it is a dramatic introduction. It is ‘the beginning’ of the story that follows, ‘the beginning’ of Jesus’ ministry, and also the title of the entire Gospel. Beginnings are important, so we might pause here a moment, at the beginning, take a breath and ponder the fact that the entire story that follows is in itself a beginning. ‘A book with “beginnings” in its title warns us right at the start not to expect closure at the end.’ When we arrive at the end of Mark’s Gospel, we will see that it actually has no ending. Instead, Mark challenges each of us to continue the narrative. Mark is probably the first to use ‘good news’ (*euangelion* – gospel) as the title of a book and it seems to be one of his favourite words. He offers a new message, based on the sayings of Jesus and the stories that were told about him. The ‘good news’ that Mark announces is not just any good news. In Greek *euangelion* refers to a joyful or important message, a victory – not a military victory, but one that brings peace, justice and an end to oppression. The tactics of this victory are love and compassion, which ironically will lead to the cross. The title lets the reader in on a secret ... Jesus is the Son of God. A lot can be said in just one sentence!

And when we dive right in, because Mark does not hang around. The Gospel moves at a fast pace and ‘immediately’ we are standing at the Jordan with John the Baptist, ‘the voice of the one crying out in the wilderness’ (cf. Isaiah 40:3), urging us to choose an alternative way of being in this world. God always sends a messenger to prepare the way, to announce to those who are experiencing wilderness that they must not despair.

Copyright © Triona Doherty & Jane Mellet, 2023. *The Deep End: A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Mark*. (Dublin: Messenger Publication, 2023).

“May you be confident knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us. ----- St Therese of Lisieux

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**

**St. Patrick’s
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption
Tynock**

9th & 10th December, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

Months Mind Mass for Brigid Reilly, Collins Park on Sat/Sun, 16th/17th December

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 9th & 10th December

Gerard Cullen, Dublin

Kathleen Balfe, Rahill

James, Mary & Ann Leonard, Monavothe

John Balfe, Rahill

James & Marie Byrne, Sunnyside

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

Bill Gahan, 25 Collins Park

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.

ST. BRIGID’S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Sunday, 10th December – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader: Byrne Family.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Mass for Advent - Monday, 11th December – Mass at 9.45 a.m.

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

Reader: Nigel Byrne.

ADVENT – WEEK TWO – Waiting in Hope Longing for Peace

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

SVP Annual Collection takes place this weekend 9th/10th December.

All funds raised will be spent in this community helping those who need it most.

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.

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.

RATHVILLY/BALTINGLASS PARISH CLUSTER

CANDLELIGHT PRAYER FOR PEACE

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

St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly on Wednesday, 13th December at 7.30 p.m.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 2nd & 3rd December

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

Rathvilly: Offertory € 436.82

Envelopes € 797.00

Kiltegan: Offertory €184.37

Envelopes €174.00

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

Results for 6th December, 2023 No Jackpot winner of €11,000.

Numbers: 04 – 12 – 28 – 31. 20 Match 3 numbers and get €50.00 each.

One local winner – Mairead Curry. Promoter – Angela Byrne.

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

On **Wednesday, 13th December** the **Jackpot is €11,000**. Tickets €2.

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

Veritas Encourages Shopping For Meaningful Gifts This Christmas

At Veritas you will find devotional books or beautifully illustrated children's books that will entertain but also fill our hearts. Visit Veritas stores in Dublin Abbey

Street, Blanchardstown, Tallaght or shop online at www.veritas.ie

Wishing you a joyous and blessed Christmas!

RATHVILLY G.A.A. CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 23-26-28-30

Match 3 win or share €150. 5 Lucky dips

Derina Keogh Williamstown

On Line winner

Mary Byrne Knocklishen

On Line winner

Trish Murphy Haroldstown

On Line winner

Gladys Lawless Woodgrove

Mick Kehoe

John Plant Rahill

Sean Leonard

Next draw 12 Dec. 2023 **Jackpot €5,700**

CARLOW CHORAL SOCIETY – Christmas Celebration Concert

Carlow Choral Society presents a Christmas Celebration Concert in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow, this Saturday 9th December at 8pm.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 5 - 7 - 24 - 30

Pat Kehoe, St. Patrick's Park, Rathvilly 5-7-11-30

Peg Kehoe

Yvonne Whyte, Rathvilly 5-7-12-30

Joe Curran

Ben & Josh Blackburn c/o Nuala 5-7-16-30

Jenny Donegan

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Chrissie Deering, Patrickswell.

Next draw 12th December 2023 **Jackpot €20,000**. Thank you for all your support.

SYNOD NEWS

A video of the recent talk given in the diocese by Bishop Brendan Leahy on his experience at the synod in Rome, and its findings, can be viewed on the synod page of the diocesan website, www.kandle.ie You can find other material on the synod and the synodal pathway for Ireland there, too.

GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO – Tuesday, 12th Dec. St. Fiacc's Hall @ 8.30pm.

Jackpot on 42 numbers €960 __ Double number €390 __ Lotto €3200

IRISH CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER – available in Rathvilly Church each week.

KEEPING ADVENT

You are invited to pray the Diocesan Advent Prayer for 2023 as we pray that nations and people will find a pathway back to the peace, hope, and love of God. Advent resources can be found on www.kandle.ie/resources/liturgy-pastoral/

ADVENT PRAYER 2023

Loving God,

As your light grows in the dark of winter,

bring its strength and its hope to the people of the Holy Land and to all people who suffer through war and conflict.

Just as you sent the star of Bethlehem to lead the way to your Son, guide all people – leaders and citizens – to follow your ways of peace and justice.

As we remember the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph, may the Holy Family be a source of courage for each of us, helping us to reach out in friendship to the oppressed and displaced of this world. Help us to see in the Christ-child we welcome this Christmas, the one who came to bring an end to all divisions. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And may the Lord bless us and keep us safe this Advent day and always. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO HELP IN THE PARISH

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