

Second Sunday of Advent – Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12 Change is coming

John the Baptist was someone who lived on the edge of society but who carried a message for all. He lived simply, wearing 'camel's hair ... and his food was locusts and wild honey'. At some point in his life, John decided to break with the traditional religious system of his time and go wild! John goes into the desert, where he must ultimately deal with himself and with God who dwells within. He had an inner freedom that enabled him to live out this call to be a prophet, and when the religious leaders arrive at the River Jordan, John is not afraid to speak truth to power. He questioned the fruits they have produced. While this 'brood of vipers' might have come to see what John is up to, the text says that they too came to be baptized by John. Perhaps they also longed for change. Considering the crowd that had arrived and the conflict that ensues with the authorities, we get a picture of a spiritual crisis in the community.

It is not by chance that we meet John the Baptist and his challenging message during Advent. His call to repent might not excite us, as we're in more of a celebratory mood these weeks, but 'to repent' literally means 'to turn around' or to return' (*metanoia*). It does not mean we riddle ourselves with guilt, rather it is an invitation to transformation, to turn away from what is not life-giving for us and I that which helps us to live a full, more balanced life. In this way, we create space to welcome Chris's grace and love at Christmas, and we become aware once more of his loving presence in our hearts and in the world around us. This is liberating and enables us to commit to love and the birthing of God in our hearts. How we prepare in these weeks is important and can lead to many blessings. Today John invites the people who have gathered, and us, to a change of heart. © Triona Doherty & Jane Mellet, 2022. *A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew*. (Dublin: Messenger Publications 2022).

"Christian life is a commitment to love, to give birth to God I one's own life and to become midwives of divinity in this evolving cosmos. We are to be wholenakers of love in a world of change.
- *Ilia Delio*

ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE

www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam Radio 108 FM

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

PLEASE NOTE: Rathvilly/Kiltegan - 083 4888149

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

Local Safeguarding Reps: Mary Phelan Elizabeth Austin David Carton

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding: Ms Ailish Higgins Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie

THE IRISH CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER – €3.50 Please put money in Shrine Box.

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

St. Brigid's

Talbotstown

Sat/Sun, 6th & 7th December, 2025

St. Patrick's

Rathvilly

The Assumption

Tynock

Second Sunday of Advent

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 6th & 7th December

Michael & Elizabeth Deering, Ballybit

James, Mary & Ann Leonard, Monavoth

James, Marie & Ann Byrne, Sunnyside

Michael Mullin, Rathdangan

Moya Mullin, Rathdangan

Nancy Malee, Phelan Street

Paddy O'Neill, Phelan Street

Alice & Miley Carson, Raheendqw

Matthew & Christina Hanly, Williamstown

Matt & Rita Hanly, Dublin

Sat/Sun, 13th & 14th December

Theresa Curran, Collins Park – 1st Anniversary

Mick & Mary Byrne, The Moate

Bill Gahan, 25 Collins Park

Fr Nicholas Cullen, former PP

Jim Doyle, Coole

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

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

Reader – Joe O'Brien.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Monday, 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception – **Mass at 11.15 a.m.**

Sunday, 14th December – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Nigel Byrne.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RATHVILLY

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

Monday, 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception – **Mass at 10.00 a.m.**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – each Friday 3 – 6 p.m.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 29th & 30th November

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €298.21

Envelopes €300.00

Kiltegan: Offertory €151.10

Envelopes €299.00

ADVENT SCRIPTURE SHARING takes place on Thursday 11th Dec at 6 p.m. in St Patrick's Church, Rathvilly.

CONFIRMATION MASSES – Sunday, 14th December

Tynock Church at 9.30a.m. Rathvilly Church at 11 a.m.

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Annual SVP Collection takes place this weekend 6th & 7th December.

CHURCH RADIO

The frequency on the Church Radio has changed to **108 FM**. This is an effort to improve quality of sound for listeners.

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

Results from 3rd December 2025 No Jackpot winner of €17,000

Numbers: 02-10-27-28. 10 Match 3 numbers get €100.00 each.

No local match three winner this week.

Next draw on Wednesday, 10th December. **Jackpot €18,000.**

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

Thank you to our parishioners for supporting the Lotto.

CHURCH CLEANERS

We would ask for volunteers who could spare some time on a weekly or fortnightly basis to help with cleaning the Church. The tasks involved would be Hoovering, polishing and general tidying. All help on this matter would be greatly appreciated. Please give your name to the Parish Office if you would be available to help.

059 9161114 Mon – Fri – 10 am – 1 pm. Thank you!

Message from Bishop Denis re - Dept of Education survey on school patronage

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland.

It is important that those who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard. It is equally important that those who wish for a Catholic Education for their children and for those who would wish for sacramental preparation within school would have their voice heard also. For those reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, please participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a primary school student. The survey can be accessed

at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/>

The survey closes on 16th December 2025.

FAMILY CARERS IRELAND

Family Carers Ireland have launched their Christmas Raffle and you could win €1,000 cash, €500 select hotels voucher or a hotel voucher.

Please support family carers in your community by purchasing a ticket at www.familycarers.ie/christmas - thank you!

RATHVILLY HERITAGE INTEREST GROUP

Christmas Draw - **Wheelbarrow Hamper on display locally.** €5 per line.

Draw takes place on Saturday, 13th December in the Harp Bar.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A cancer ward is no place to spend Christmas. Your faith in action can give precious comfort and peace. Make a Christmas gift now to help a child get expert care they urgently need. For confidential advice, support and information, call Freephone

1800 200 700 or email supportline@irishcancer.ie

Donations from this year's Christmas Crib will be given to this great cause.

Graigecullen Bingo Tuesday 9th December 2025 St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm

Jackpot on 48 numbers €2,650 Double number € 460 Lotto € 1100 Bonus Ball €950

DUFFY COACH HIRE

All-Night Vigil at Knock Shrine is an annual event that occurs on the night of December 7th into December 8th, coinciding with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The vigil includes an overnight prayer service in the Basilica with confession, rosary, holy hour and Mass concluding at 4.00 a.m. on the 8th Dec. For further information contact Duffy's 087 2543235 or 059 6471681.

RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 1-15-16-19

Match 3 win or share €150

Aoife O'Dwyer Fr. Flood Ave. 1-4-16-19

On Line winner

Margaret Dunne Athy 1-8-15-16

On Line winner

Noel Doyle Knockavagh 14-15-16-19

On Line winner

Next draw 9 Dec. 2025 **Jackpot €5,600**

A group has been formed to commence the interesting work of compiling a **history of Rathvilly GAA**. The research will span over a hundred years of activity and it is essential that a complete picture as possible of our Club's history is compiled.

How can you help?

Have you any old photographs, medals, newspaper reports/cut-outs, pictures, match programmes, trophies, memorabilia of any type. If you have anything please let us know by sending an email to history.rathvillygaa@gmail.com and a member of the Group will be in contact with you. We would love to hear from you.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 4-9-11-17

Margaret McNamara, Rathvilly 7-9-11-17

Online Winner

Martin Deering, Rathvilly 4-11-17-20

The Harp

Theresa Neill c/o Breda Keogh 9-11-17-19

Breda Keogh

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

Next draw 9th December 2025 **Jackpot €3,600.** Thank you for all your support.

IRISH CONVERSATION GROUP

Meet each Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Teach Bhride, Tullow. All welcome.

Bigstone National School are looking forward to putting on their Christmas play 'Lights, Camel, Action!' in Bigstone Community hall on Tuesday 9th December at 7 pm. There will be calendars for sale that the students have produced themselves and a raffle on the night. We are also expecting a visit from Santa himself! Everyone is welcome to come join us for a wonderful evening of music and song!

CARLOW LIBRARIES

There is lots happening in Libraries for Féile Lonrach (Festival of Joy) this December!! Please email to library@carlowcoco.ie for any queries! Follow Carlow Library on social media for all events! <https://x.com/CarlowLibraries> Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/carlowcountylibraries>