

Epiphany: Matthew 2:1-12

Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

We observed his star at his rising

The Wise men probably astronomers and philosophers from the region of Persia, but most importantly of all they were seekers. They looked to the skies for astronomical signs which would foretell the birth of a powerful leader.

They were awake to the signs of the times. One must admire these Wise Men for the way they set out faithfully on this determined journey, a journey which involved many risks. We don't know details of their religious affiliations and it really does not matter, for this story of the Wise Men is the story of people of all cultures, all countries and all faiths who make a journey in search of God. Matthew sets their story in stark contrast to that of Herod. Herod is 'greatly troubled' when he hears of a possible threat to his power. Rumours of a new king could potentially upset political and religious structures. Herod is an example of a narcissistic leader consumed by his own ego. In contrast, the Wise Men are humble and genuine in their quest to find this child who has been born. The arrival of the Wise Men in Bethlehem is a moment of great joy and grace, as 'on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage'. God is found in the simple spaces. Let us have the courage to take the risk and move out of our comfort zones in search of Jesus, just as the Wise Men did. They have no idea of what awaited them, but the Gospel speaks of their delight and joy when they arrived at the place. ©

Triona Doherty & Jane Mellet, 2021. The Deep End: A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Mark. (Dublin: Messenger Publications 2021).

"We often make do with looking at the ground ... I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky? Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind? - **Pope Francis**

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

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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**

**St. Patrick's
Rathvilly**

Sat/Sun, 3rd & 4th January 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS

Recent Death: Marie Steward, Woodgrove Avenue

Months Mind Mass: Kathleen Skelton nee Cole this weekend 3/4 January

ANNIVERSARY MASSES
Sat/Sun, 3rd & 4th January

James, Teresa & Johnny McGuire and deceased family members
Mary Plant, Rahill

Ann O'Connor nee Plant

Paddy & Elizabeth Kelly, Ricketstown & deceased family members

John & Betty Farrell, Bernadette Coyle and Myra Farrell, Maynooth
Alice Kelly, Ballyhackett

Molly Lawlor, St. Patrick's Park

Maureen, Tom & Paul Flinter, Ballyraggan

Sat/Sun, 10th & 11th January

Peter Smith, 6 St. Patrick's Park

Patrick & Mary McNevin, Raheendaw

William Smith, Monavotive

Mary Higgins nee Foley, Collins Park

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Sunday, 4th January – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Fiona Kane.

Tuesday, 6th January – Feast of the Epiphany – Mass at 9.45 a.m.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Saturday, 10th January – Mass at 6.00 p.m.

Reader – Conor O'Leary.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RATHVILLY MASSES

Monday, 5th January – Vigil Mass 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 6th January – Feast of the Epiphany – 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday & Friday – 9.30 a.m.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION – will resume on Friday, 9th January 3 – 6 p.m.

PARISH HOUSEBOUND VISIT FOR JANUARY –

Kiltegan Area Wednesday, 7th January 2-5 pm

Rathvilly Area Friday, 9th January 2 – 5 pm

FOUND

Caps and Gloves found in the Church. Owners can collect in the Sacristy after Mass.

CHRISTMAS CRIB

The Crib will remain open until 1st February. Donations from this year's Christmas Crib will be given to the Children's Cancer Appeal.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 20/21 & 27/28 December

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

20/21 Dec. Rathvilly: Offertory €341.64	Envelopes €471.00
Kiltegan: Offertory €152.41	Envelopes €178.00
27/28 Dec. Rathvilly: Offertory €212.44	Envelopes €1472.00
Kiltegan: Offertory €78.30	Envelopes €356.00

THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Station and Christmas Collection. It is very much appreciated.

WEEKLY ENVELOPES 2026

Weekly Envelopes Boxes have been distributed to families in the Parish. If you do not receive a box and would like to contribute to our Parish, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your support.

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

Next draw on Wednesday, 7th January. **Jackpot €10,000.**

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 RADIO

The frequency on the Church Radio has changed to **108 FM**.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sunday, 11th January is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. At Mass we will remember all the children baptised during 2025. Families are invited to attend Mass in Tynock Church on Saturday, 10th January at 6 p.m. & Rathvilly Church on Sunday, 11th January at 11 am. There will be a special blessing for the children. Baptismal Certificates will be available after Mass.

RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 4-16-27-29.

Match 3 win or share €150. 5 Lucky dips.

Peader Doyle Knockavagh

Martin Molloy Rathvilly

Ross Donovan Tullow

Yvonne Foley Fr. Flood Tce

Eithne Brennan Ballyoliver

Next Draw 6 Jan. 2026 **Jackpot €6,000**

On Line winner

On Line winner

On Line winner

Paul Kelly

Eithne Brennan

SPECIAL MASSES FOR SACRAMENTS 2026

First Holy Communion

Rathmore/Rathvilly NS

Sunday, 18th January at 11a.m.

Sunday, 8th February at 11 a.m.

Saturday, 28th February at 7.30 p.m.

First Penance - Rathmore/Rathvilly Wednesday, 18th March at 7 p.m.

Talbotstown/Tynock NS

Sunday, 25th January in Tynock at 9.30a.m.

Sunday, 22nd February in Tynock at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, 15th March in Talbotstown at 9.30 a.m.

First Penance - Talbotstown/Tynock in Tynock Church Thurs. 19th March at 7 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Rathmore/Rathvilly NS

Saturday, 17th January at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 7th February at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 28th February at 7.30 p.m.

Talbotstown/Tynock NS

Sunday, 18th January in Talbotstown Church at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, 22nd February in Tynock Church at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, 15th March in Talbotstown Church at 9.30 a.m.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 12-25-29-30

Ruairi Conroy, Baltinglass 12-20-25-30

Breda Keogh

Trish Harmon, Kiltegan 9-12-29-30

Fergal Harmon

Paul Gibbons c/o Molloy's Bar 12-20-25-30

Molloy's Bar

Promoter's prize €20 was won by The Harp Bar, Rathvilly.

Next draw 6th. January 2026 **Jackpot €4,000.** Thank you for all your support.

GRAIGUECULLEN MONSTER BINGO TUESDAY 6th JANUARY 2026

St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8pm **Jackpot on 48 numbers €3170**

Double number €390 **Lotto € 1350 Bonus Ball €650**

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the World. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his Baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast of Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. (CCC,528)