

1st Sunday of Lent

Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

Gospel – Matthew 4:1-11 The challenge of indifference

We don't hear much about temptation these days. If anything, we are encouraged to give in to our desires. Glossy ads urge us to 'indulge' or 'treat' ourselves, to splash out on luxury items, to chase our dreams – in short, to do whatever we want, as long as we're not deliberately harming anyone. So this account of the temptation of Jesus might not immediately resonate with a modern audience. Why should it matter if Jesus uses his power and privilege to gain prestige for himself? Why wouldn't he want to look upon 'all the kingdoms of the world' from a lofty height? But Jesus calls out the temptations for what they are – empty, distorted promises that go against everything he is. Jesus does not look down on people but accompanies them. He does not live for himself but in service of others.

During Lent, we are invited to take stock of our direction in life, to reflect on what temptations or stumbling blocks might be holding us back. The 'me-first' messaging of our culture encourages a reductive understanding of what it means to be a responsible human. It is not enough to float through life as though our indulgences are the most important thing and our actions do not have consequences. Jesus calls us to engage with the world, to put others first, to use our privilege for the benefit of others rather than ourselves. Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel has spoken of the dangers of becoming indifferent to the world: 'Indifference can be tempting – more than that, seductive. It is so much easier to look away from victims. It is so much easier to avoid such rude interruptions to our work, our dreams, our hopes.' The temptation of indifference and complacency is ever-present. We are reminded this Lent that we are called to a new way of living that is focused outside of ourselves and rooted in love and service.

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"Indifference is more dangerous than anger and hatred ... Indifference is not a response. Indifference is not a beginning; it is an end. And, therefore, indifference is always the friend of the enemy, for it benefits the aggressor – never the victim, whose pain is magnified when he or she feels forgotten. – *Elie Wiesel*

ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

**St. Brigid's
Talbotstown**

**St. Patrick's
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption
Tynock**

Sat/Sun, 21st & 22nd February, 2026 1st Sunday of Lent

Recent Deaths: Patrick Healy, Slaney Meadows

Fr Peter Coyle, St. Patrick's Missionary Society, Kiltegan

Mary Timmins, Graiguecullen mother of Martin Timmins, Woodgrove Ave.

Ann Cole, Ballykilduff, Tobinstown mother of Mary and Tommy Cole, Rathdaniel

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 21st & 22nd February

Margaret (Maggie) Byrne, Patrickswell – 1st Anniversary

Eithne Condon, Cnoc Mhuire

Mary Hanlon, Ricketstown

Laurence (Chappie) Byrne, Knockroe

Patrick Hanlon, Bough

Elizabeth & James Byrne, Tobinstown

Kate Hanlon, Borris

Peter Reilly, Kevin Barry Road

Garrett & Dora Keogh and deceased family members

Sat/Sun, 28th Feb/1st March

Mary Ellen & James McNamara, Ballyoliver and deceased family members

James & Elizabeth Byrne, Ballyoliver and deceased family members

Myles & Mai Carson, Rathmore and deceased family members

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Sunday, 22nd February – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Mary Kelly, Feddan.

Memorial Mass – A Mass in memory of Julia Moulton (nee Daly) will be celebrated in Tynock Church on Saturday, 28th February at 4 p.m. Her children will be coming from England and would love for anyone that knew her to join them at the Mass and at The Talk of the Town afterwards.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Sunday, 1st March – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Fiona Kane.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RATHVILLY MASSES

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

No Mass on Tuesday morning.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION SPECIAL MASSES

First Holy Communion & Confirmation – Talbotstown & Tynock NS this Sunday, 22nd February at 9.30 a.m. in Tynock Church.

Rathmore & Rathvilly NS on Saturday, 28th February in Rathvilly Church at 7.30pm.

BAPTISED AND SENT IN LENT 2026

The Lenten programme continues on Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Rathvilly Parish meeting room (note earlier time of 7 pm). Through these Lenten reflections, we lay, religious and ordained, are each encouraged to rediscover who we are as God's people, to listen to the Holy Spirit, and to create concrete steps towards living our baptismal calling more deeply. All are welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS each Friday evening at 6 pm after adoration, during lent in St Patrick's Church, Rathvilly.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 14th & 15th February

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €288.52

Envelopes €415.00

Kiltegan: Offertory €196.69

Envelopes €227.05

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

Results from 18th February, 2026 No Jackpot winner of €12,000

Numbers: 17-26-31-32. 5 Match 3 numbers get €200.00 each.

No local match three winner this week.

Next draw on Wednesday, 25th February. **Jackpot €13,000.**

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

Sunday 22 February 1st Sunday of Lent

Digging Deeper – Living Lent: Some suggestions for the week

† Reflect on next Sunday's Gospel using the material from 'Baptised and Sent in Lent' www.synod.ie

† Make the Sign of the Cross when leaving your home/passing a church/cemetery/ before & after a meal

† Give up social media for an evening (or more!)

† Take a pause when you want to give out

† Give up a coffee/ a meal and donate the money you save

† Support Trócaire's Lenten appeal

Gospel Link: Baptised and Sent by the Spirit

As we start our 40 days of Lent, in today's gospel we see Jesus undertaking a similar discipline and experiencing the very human realities of temptation and hunger along the way. Having just been baptised, he is led by the Spirit. Within the struggle of the desert, we see that Jesus is not alone. God sends angels to take care of him.

This gospel passage is a timely reminder that we follow in the footsteps of Jesus who came among us to show us the way to God. Like Jesus, as baptised people we are led by the Spirit. We are never alone in our attempts to turn back to God and renew our lives. Led by the Spirit, we have Jesus and God's angels as our companions to give us strength and to bring us closer to God, the source of our life; we need never be afraid or alone. This Lent, where is the Spirit leading you? (Julie Kavanagh)

(For deeper connection with the Gospel see synod.ie for Baptised and Sent in Lent – a reflection series for Lent)

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

TRÓCAIRE - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Last year, Trócaire worked with over 40,000 people in at-risk communities across Rwanda, helping vulnerable families build resilience against climate change by:

- Supporting over 2,500 women to receive training in sustainable resource management
- Providing over 20,000 families with fuel-efficient cookstoves to reduce firewood use
- Planting over 320,000 trees across the country

On this First Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to listen to the Gospel account of the Temptation of Jesus. It may seem strange that Jesus, who had just been Baptised and was "filled with the Holy Spirit", experienced the temptation to abandon the mission entrusted to him, and to prioritise wealth and influence. The Gospel reminds us that even if we are close to God, we can be tempted. While the circumstances may differ, the temptation is usually the same, to put ourselves and our own agenda first. In his preaching Jesus asks us to "seek first the kingdom of God". That is the focus of this season of Lent.

TALBOTSTOWN NS

"**FUN BINGO**" takes place in the Talk of the Town, Kiltegan, on Friday 13th March at 8.30 p.m. Enjoy a fun evening of laughs, prizes and good company. We are raising funds for upgrading classroom facilities. The event is run by the Parents Association in Talbotstown National School.

RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers Drawn 5-8-19-28

Match 3 win or share €150

Alannah Kavanagh Mountkelly 5-8-19-27

On Line winner

AnnMarie Molloy Knockavagh 5-19-28-29

On Line winner

Next draw 24 Feb. 2025 **Jackpot €6,700**

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 2-13-22-29

Gillian Curran, Woodgrove Avenue 2-8-13-22

Brian Curran

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

Next draw 24th.Feb. 2026. Jackpot €4,700. Thank you for all your support.

EPILEPSY AWARENESS DAY

In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. For further information, please visit www.epilepsy.ie. Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day) will take place on Thursday 26th March.

THRESHOLDS OF TRANSFORMATION

Thresholds of Transformation for Seekers and Searchers is offered as a 15-session spiritual journey that invites participants into a deeper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. Rooted in Pope Francis' Laudato Si', the programme explores faith, integral ecology, and hope in the midst of today's global challenges. We are delighted to share that we will be facilitating Thresholds of Transformation for Seekers and Searchers here at Suaimhneas, Emo, beginning on Thursday, 26th February. Please visit <https://ttss.thresholdsoftransformation.org/> for more information.