

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

Gospel – John 9:1-41 *‘He has opened my eyes’*

Today’s Gospel is long but so worth it. John’s narrative is enticing and reads like a piece of theatre, so much so in fact, some scholars think it may actually have been acted out, as it has such clear roles and great one-liners. In the first part we see that the disciples are not really interested in helping the man born blind, they are more concerned with solving the riddle of whose fault it is that he is blind in the first place. Is it divine retribution? Jesus is clear that no one is to blame. God is not vengeful. Jesus focuses on what good God can do through difficult situations. They present an opportunity for God’s love and grace to work, not an opportunity for condemnation.

One really interesting thing to notice in the story is how the man’s vision increases as the story unfolds. It’s not only his physical sight that returns, but spiritually he begins to *see* more and more clearly, despite being faced with fierce opposition from the authorities. In contrast to this clarity, the opposite is happening for the religious leaders. They appear to become even more blind as the story hurtles towards its climax. Those in authority object to the man’s newfound vision. While Jesus disappears for most of the narrative, the blind man takes center stage and grows from seeing Jesus as a prophet, to a man of God and finally to worshipping him.

There are times in our own lives when we need greater clarity. Perhaps we are having difficulties with friends or family members and long to share with them on a deeper level but find it too difficult. We plead with the Lord for greater awareness on how to approach them, knowing that we, too, may face opposition and difficult questioning. At those moments Jesus can certainly seem absent. It is often at these moments of aloneness that Jesus appears. There are many things that we are blind to. We all suffer some sort of spiritual blindness. Today, let us pray for greater clarity and awareness so that we, like the blind man, may come to see more clearly.

© Triona Doherty & Jane Mellet, 2022. *A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew*. (Dublin: Messenger Publications 2022).

“As you start to walk on the way, the way appears.

*Rumi*

**ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE**

**[www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam](http://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](mailto:office@rathvillykilteganparish.ie) Website: [www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie](http://www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie)**

**Registered Charity Number 20015848**

**Diocesan Website: [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)**

**Local Safeguarding Reps: Mary Phelan Elizabeth Austin David Carton**

**Diocesan Director of Safeguarding: Ms Ailish Higgins Email: [safeguarding@kandle.ie](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)**

**TRÓCAIRE BOXES AVAILABLE IN EACH CHURCH – please take one home**

## RATHVILLY KILTEAN PARISH

### NEWSLETTER

**St. Brigid’s  
Talbotstown**

**St. Patrick’s  
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption  
Tynock**

**Sat/Sun, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

#### ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March

Paddy Doyle, Foxcover  
Mary Ann Leonard, Rahill  
John & Peter Byrne, Collins Park

Mary Kelly, Knockboy  
Pat Nolan, Mountkelly

Sat/Sun, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Mick & Madeline Curran, St. Patrick’s Park  
Martin & Mary Curran, Ballybit  
Kathleen Curry, Ballybit  
Liam Hayes, Dublin

Shaun Leonard, Rahill  
Paddy Deering, Ballybit  
Eileen Doyle, Lisnavagh

Sat/Sun, 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March

Leslie Howard Coates, late of Blackpool  
Rita Conway, Straboe  
John, Anna & Geraldine Cashin  
Sarah Kenny

Christine Donovan, Rathdangan  
Frank Donovan, Tallaght  
Don Heenan, Williamstown

Deceased members of the Cashin & Foley families, Dunlavin & Knockfield

#### ST. BRIGID’S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Confirmation children.

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Breedh Murphy,

Narrators - Mary Kelly, Conor O’Leary.

#### CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Mary Byrne.

Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March – Mass at 6.00 p.m.

Reader – Nigel Byrne.

#### ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH, RATHVILLY

Monday – Vigil Mass at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday – St. Patrick’s Day – Mass at 11.00 a.m.

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

Monday – Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

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

#### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION SPECIAL MASSES

Talbotstown & Tynock NS – Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30 a.m. in Talbotstown Church.

First Penance –

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March for Rathmore & Rathvilly NS at 7 pm in Rathvilly Church.

Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March for Talbotstown & Tynock NS at 7 pm in Tynock Church.

**PARISH OFFICE** – closed Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 18/19/20 March.

**MIGRANT COLLECTION** – will be taken up on St. Patrick's Day - to assist Irish emigrants abroad and vulnerable communities within Ireland.

**EASTER STATION** – due at this time. Thank you for your continued support.

**CHRISM MASS** – Cathedral of the Assumption on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm

**HOUSEBOUND VISIT FOR APRIL - Holy Week – Easter Visit**

Rathvilly area – Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2 – 5 p.m.

Kiltegan area – Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April – 2 – 5 p.m.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April in St. Joseph's Church Baltinglass at 3 p.m. Confessions available and veneration of the Divine Mercy Image.

**ST PATRICK'S DAY IN RATHVILLY**

Weather permitting the Parish will celebrate St Patrick's Day in a special way.

People are invited to gather at St Patrick's Well on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am where water will be collected. Prayers will be said at the well in honour of St Patrick.

We will then process to St Patrick's Church for Mass at 11 a.m.

**BAPTISED AND SENT IN LENT 2026**

The Lenten programme continues on Wednesday evening at **8 pm** in Rathvilly Parish meeting room. All are welcome. **Please note time change.**

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

**WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March**

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €318.21                      Envelopes €592.00

Kiltegan: Offertory €222.43                      Envelopes €345.00

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

Results from 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 No Jackpot winner of €15,000

Numbers: 02-15-24-29. 11 Match 3 numbers get €91.00 each.

No local match three winner this week.

Next draw on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March. **Jackpot €16,000.**

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

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> 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'

Resources on [www.syond.ie](http://www.syond.ie)

+ Pray the Mysteries of Light and /or the Sorrowful Mysteries

+ Check the energy efficiency of your light bulbs and change them if necessary

+ Look out for someone who might need your help and offer it

+ Visit a church, light a candle and say a prayer

**DAFFODIL DAY- Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Daffodils and Merchandise will be available in Centra and Rathvilly Pharmacy. Please support the Irish Cancer Society.

**POOR CLARE MONASTERY, GRAIGUECULLEN**

Monastic Experience Afternoon. Ladies discerning a Religious vocation

A time to ask questions, a time for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

Exposed. Poor Clare Monastery, Graiguecullen, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2 – 5 pm.

**EASTER TRIDUUM RETREAT**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, arrival from 4pm, evening meal at 6pm, departing Sunday morning after Mass and Breakfast.

The Easter Triduum forms the heart of the liturgical year and we invite you to join as we pause to reflect and celebrate a moment in time on your unique journey.

For enquiries please contact Michéle Sinnott, [slianchroi@spms.ie](mailto:slianchroi@spms.ie) or telephone 089 – 4690508. Cost €390 per person.

**DUFFY'S COACH HIRE**

**Car driver** required for School run – male or female – contact 087 2543235

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje** – still some seats available – contact 087 2543235

**RATHVILLY GAA CLUB**

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 9-17-22-24

Match 3 win or share €150

Lena Smith Haroldstown 9-16-17-24

On Line winner

Next draw 17 March 2026 **Jackpot €7,000**

**SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.**

Lotto numbers drawn on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March were 1-9-17-24

Theresa Lawlor, St. Patrick's Park 1-5-9-17                      Brian Curran

Patrick Smith, Tullow 9-17-19-24                      Online Winner

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Jenny Donegan, Collins Park, Rathvilly.

Next draw 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Jackpot €5,000. Thank you for all your support.

**5KM RUN & WALK**

Join us for the Rathvilly 5K Run & Walk in aid of Rathvilly NS Parents Association on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Rathvilly GAA Pitch starting at 10 a.m. Chipped timing, cash prizes & FREE Kids 1KM Run. Bespoke medal for the first 200 entries.

**RATHVILLY HERITAGE INTEREST GROUP**

Easter Wheelbarrow Hamper Draw – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Wheelbarrow Hamper

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Chocolate Hamper from the Chocolate Garden. Draw takes place on

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March in Lawlor's Bar at 7 p.m. €5 per line available in Centra

Rathvilly or revolut your name and money to 086 8594340.

**CLEANER AVAILABLE – MORNINGS ONLY** Phone Kate 086 8671926

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