

4th Sunday of Easter Vocation Sunday Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne
John 10:1-10 *Abundant life*

Some years ago, Pope Francis grabbed people's attention with a vivid image when he urged priests to become shepherds who smell of sheep: 'This I ask you,' he said, 'be shepherds, with the "odour of the sheep", make it real, as shepherds among your flock.' He was echoing the language of the Gospels where Jesus speaks of himself as the 'Good Shepherd' who knows his sheep, calls his sheep by name. There is a beautiful line in today's Gospel, 'the sheep follow him because they know his voice'. This kind of trust could be only be gained by a shepherd who stays close to their sheep, feeds and protects them. In today's passage we are invited into a deep relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to spend time with him, to listen for his voice, a voice that brings peace and comfort. From this relationship comes life, abundant life. In contrast to a thief whose only motive is to take, Jesus gives life that is joyful, hopeful, meaningful and eternal.

As Christ is shepherd to us, we are called to be shepherds to others. We do not help anyone by engaging in 'saviourism', whereby we swoop in and try to 'make a difference' without getting to know the people we wish to support or what is really needed. It is far more meaningful to develop close bonds over time, like the good shepherd. Pope Francis invites us to 'go out of ourselves', to go beyond our own boundaries and be present to people, to really get to know each other and build friendships, to lift each other up. The 'abundant' life is an ongoing process of walking together, working together, learning to trust one another – maybe stumbling or making mistakes, but always working to live in harmony. As followers of the Good Shepherd, we live so that all may 'have life, and have it abundantly'.

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

"When we say that we want to go to the margins, what are we implying (consciously or not) is that those we're going to are 'others' than us . . . so it's not so much that the Church reaches out to the margins but that the Church needs to reach out beyond OUR margins. We need to go beyond our own, self-imposed boundaries. – *Jim Deeds*

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

RATHVILLY KILTEAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

**St. Brigid's
Talbotstown**

**St. Patrick's
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption
Tynock**

Sat/Sun, 25th & 26th April Vocation Sunday

Recent Deaths: Peter Lennon, Patrick's Well Annette Dillon, The Orchard

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 25th & 26th April

Richard Bolger, Ballybit

Mag & Bill Byrne, Waterstown

Patrick, Kathleen & Robert Merrigan

Sean Corcoran, Rathvilly

James & Ann Kelly, Ballymore

Jim & Nan Kennedy, St. Patrick's Park

Ger & Bridie Gavin, Nenagh

William Reilly, Collins Park

Charlie Lawlor, St. Patrick's Park

Lawlor Family, Phelan Street and deceased family members

Thomas & Margaret Corcoran, Ballyhackett & deceased family members

Patrick & Bridget Keatley, Castledermot & deceased family members

Sat/Sun, 2nd & 3rd May

Bill Doyle, Tankardstown

Andy Nolan, Knockboy

Mai Foley, Bough

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Saturday, 25th April – Mass at 6.00 p.m.

Reader: Conor O'Leary.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Sunday, 3rd May – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader: Nigel Byrne.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RATHVILLY

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - Mass at 9.30 a.m.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – Adoration each Friday 3 – 6 p.m.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 18th & 19th April

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €307.29

Envelopes €323.79

Kiltegan: Offertory €62.75

Envelopes €230.00

EVENING PRAYER

Evening Prayer – Memorial of St Joseph the Worker takes place next Friday, 1st May at 7.30 p.m. in Rathvilly Church. We invite people to bring a small stone to place in the Easter Garden.

VOCATION SUNDAY

What if God is calling you? The priesthood is not about having all the answers.

It's about trusting God with the questions. If you're thinking about it . . . let's talk.

Contact Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill, Vocations Director, Newbridge Parish 083 3343744

CONFIRMATION 2026

Forty-nine boys and girls from our four parish schools were confirmed in a beautiful ceremony on Thursday 23/4/'26. The celebrant was Bishop Denis Nulty. We are grateful that he spoke to and interacted in such a personal way with everyone involved: the candidates, their parents, sponsors, families, teachers, principals, the music ministers. Thanks to Trish in the Parish office, to Breda our sacristan who ensured the confirmandi were in the correct sized alb, to cleaners, flower arrangers and helpers who prepared the Church and grounds for the day, and special thanks to Rathvilly parents association for the very welcome tea/ coffee/ confectionery outside after the ceremony. Thanks to one and all for a memorable day in the Parish. Above all, we congratulate the newly confirmed warmly and pray that in how they live, they will know they are 'loved, necessary and chosen' as members of the parish community.

What happened to the Cross in the Church grounds?

People were wondering what was afoot in January when they saw the Cross being taken down and removed from the grounds of St Patrick's Church. The members of the new Rathvilly Heritage Interest Group took on the task of overseeing its replacement by a new Cross. They undertook to have the new Cross in place for Confirmation Day. Local joiner Paddy McCall agreed to organize the necessary wood (teak) and its preparation. Andrew Bolger assisted in putting the cross in place. Fiona Brennan and Seán, Ken, Alan, Martin, Linus and Walsh Engineers and others assisted, but the overall project was managed painstakingly by Eamon Doyle. Many thanks to everyone involved. We know the hours of time you put into the task. Before the Confirmation Ceremony with the 49 confirmandi as witnesses Bishop Denis Nulty blessed the New Cross. After the ceremony in the sacristy he likewise blessed small crosses, pens, chalices and a ciborium fashioned from the wood of the old cross by Will Kenny of Knockavagh. At a function last Sunday we also viewed work in progress by Joe Goulding, Rathvilly who is making from the wood some candle stands for our altars in the Parish Church. Well done to Joe and Will, master craftsmen. Other recent enhancements are the cleaning and repainting of the outdoor statue of St Joseph and the power cleaning of the three nearby priests' graves.

KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Pilgrimage to Knock takes place on Sunday 7th June led by Bishop Denis Nulty. We would like to see as many people as possible join with others from around the diocese for this pilgrimage which takes place every second year. A bus will travel from the parish. Please contact the parish office 059 9161114 to book a seat.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room to discuss the future of the Parish Conference. Mr. Gerry O'Malley regional president will attend. All are welcome.

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

Results from 22nd April, 2026 No Jackpot winner of €14,000
Numbers: 07-11-20-30. 17 Match 3 numbers get €59.00 each.
One local match three winner this week.
Winner – Breda Reilly. Promoter – Breda Reilly.
Next draw on Wednesday, 29th April. **Jackpot €15,000.**
The draw takes place each Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise.

Save the Date: Parishes Alive – Becoming Synodal

The third annual Parishes Alive Day will take place on the 20th of June 2026 in Carlow College, St Patrick's from 10am to 4pm with lunch included. Full details of the speakers and content, as well as booking instructions, will be published around the middle of May. Pat Roche, Diocesan Director of Parish Development.

GK Parish Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Our Annual Parish Solemn Novena in St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen continues each Monday until 8th of June. The rosary will be recited at 7pm.
This week's Guest Speaker is: Bernard Dunne, Former World Boxing Champion.

RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 2-5-18-26
Match 3 win or share €150. 5 Lucky dips
Patrick Farrell Phelan St. On Line winner
Mayghan Doyle Carlow On Line winner
Ciara Deering Ballybit On Line winner
Eddie Kelly Ballyhackett Post Office
Mary McNamara Monavothe Post Office
Next draw 28 April 2026 **Jackpot €7,600**

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto numbers drawn on Tuesday 21st. April were 8-9-11-18
Pat Ivory, Kiltegan 9-11-18-23 Breda Keogh
Promoter's prize €20 was won by Rathvilly Post Office.
Next draw 28th. April 2026. Jackpot €5,600. Thank you for all your support.

ALONE A Little Offering Never Ends. Remember you do not have to be alone to avail of our services, the only criteria is that you must be over 60. We offer supports including: Pendant Alarms, assisting with form filling, Energy Credits, applications for Housing, adaptation grants, sourcing cleaners for indoor and outdoors, local businesses that carry out odd jobs, linking in with MABS if finances get too much and much more.

We provide Volunteering and BeFriending and would be very grateful to hear from anyone who is interested in Volunteering with us.

Contact details: Rachael - Support coordinator 086 0616539 or www.alone.ie

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