

## THE TRADITION OF THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE - POPE FRANCIS

We need to imagine ourselves in the little Italian town of Greccio, near Rieti. Saint Francis stopped there, most likely his way back from Rome where on 29 November 1223 he had received the confirmation of his rule from Pope Honorius III. Francis had earlier visited the Holy Land, and the caves in Greccio reminded him of the countryside of Bethlehem. It may also be that the Poor Man of Assisi had been struck by the mosaics in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major depicting the birth of Jesus close to the place where, according to an ancient tradition, the wooden panels of the manger are preserved.

Fifteen days before Christmas, Francis asked a local man named John to help him realise his desire “to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay.” His faithful friend went immediately to prepare all that the saint had asked. On 25 December, friars came to Greccio, together with people from the farmsteads in the area, who brought flowers and torches to light up the holy night. When Francis arrived he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey. All those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene. “A priest then solemnly celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist.

At Greccio there were no statues; the Nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present. This is how our tradition began: with everyone gathered in joy around the cave, with no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery. Thomas of Celano, the first biographer of Saint Francis, notes that this simple and moving scene was accompanied by the gift of a marvellous vision: one of those present saw the baby Jesus himself in the manger.

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### GOSPEL READINGS – 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

Sunday: Lk 3: 1-6	Mon: Lk 5: 17-26	Tues: Mt 18: 12-14
Wed: Lk 1: 26-38	Thurs: Mt 11: 11-15	Fri: Mt 11: 16-19
Sat: Mt 17: 10-13	Sunday: Lk 3: 10-18	

All the Sunday and Daily Mass Readings can be accessed from our website.

### FOCUS NEWSLETTER is available in all three Churches.

### ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE & RADIO

[www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam](http://www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam)      Radio 104.3 fm

**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)**

**Diocesan Website: [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)      Parish Radio 104.3 fm**

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

**Diocesan Director of Safeguarding: Ms. Kathleen Sherry - Email: [safeguarding@kandle.ie](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)**

## RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

### NEWSLETTER

**St. Brigid's  
Talbotstown**

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2021**

**St. Patrick's  
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption  
Tynock**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Recent Death:** Mick Walsh, Ballyhackett, Tullow

### ANNIVERSARY MASSES

#### Rathvilly Church – Sat/Sun, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> December

Paddy Kavanagh, Dublin – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

Micheál & Elizabeth Deering, Ballybit

John Colgan, Rathdaniel

Des Conway, Barnhill

Peter Conway, Barnhill

PJ Conway, Ashourne & formerly Barnhill

Kathleen Balfe, Rahill

John Balfe, Rahill

Nancy Malee, Phelan Street

Paddy O'Neill, Phelan Street

**Talbotstown Church – Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December at 6 p.m.**      Johnny Somers

**Tynock Church - Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 a.m.**      Colin Foley & Lilly Foley

#### Rathvilly Church – Sat/Sun, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> December

**Months Mind Mass** for Eamon Dunne, Tankardstown on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> December

Mary (Maureen) Leonard, Monavothé – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

John Dunne, Carlow

Nicholas Cullen former Parish Priest

Eileen & Denis Byrne, St. Patrick's Park

Miley Carson, Raheendaw

Gerard Cullen, Dublin

Matthew & Christina Hanly, Williamstown

Matt & Rita Hanly, Dublin

#### Tynock Church – Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> December

**Months Mind Mass** for Ann (Nan) Kenny, Kiltegan

### MASS TIMES THIS WEEK      **St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly**

Monday & Thursday – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

**Tuesday – Vigil Mass at 7.30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. - Holy Day, The Immaculate Conception – Mass at 11a.m.**

Friday – Mass at 10.00 a.m.      Rosary before Mass each day.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - Thursday 10 – 11a.m. No Adoration on Friday.**

**CONFESSSIONS (Day Chapel) – Thursday during Adoration.**

#### **St. Brigid's Church, Talbotstown**

Mass on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 p.m.

Reader – Breedh Murphy.

**Holy Day – Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December – Mass in Talbotstown at 9.30 a.m.**

Mass on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Mary Kelly, Feddan.

#### **Church of the Assumption, Tynock**

Mass on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Muireann Gartland.

Mass on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 p.m.

Reader – Nigel Byrne.

## **ADVENT – WEEK 2      LORD OF PEACE**

An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for Week 2

*We invite you to take a moment before bedtime to pause and thank God for your Advent day. Bring to God any worries or concerns you may have, any places of conflict or disturbance in your life. Pray this prayer in union with the rest of our diocesan family. You might like to light the first two candles of your Advent wreath or your Advent Candle to begin your prayer.*

Loving God, on this Advent night we turn to you in prayer.

As we wait for the coming of your Son, we ask you to bless our family.

Comfort us with your healing and help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of peace. Help us to forgive and to love, and to bring your peace where it is needed. May your peace guard our hearts, our minds and our home. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

### **What are the Advent Sunday Readings saying to me?**

**ADVENT SCRIPTURE SHARING** Why not spend time reflecting on the Sunday Scriptures this Advent alone or with others? Copies available in the Church.

**Resources for Advent are available in the Church on our Website and on [kandle.ie](http://kandle.ie)**

## **WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2021**

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €259.37   Envelopes €462.00

Kiltegan: Offertory €82.40   Envelopes €194.20

You can also make your donation to the parish by electronic banking. You can contact the Parish Office for details or log on to the Diocesan Website.

**Donation Buttons on KandLe Website:** There are now two electronic 'Donate Buttons' on the front page of the diocesan website [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

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

Results for 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021      Numbers: 01 – 18 – 24 – 27.

No Jackpot winner of €11,000.      15 Match 3s get €67.00 each.

No local winners this week.

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

On Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December the **Jackpot is €12,000.** Tickets €2 each.

## **RESULTS OF FREE DRAW FOR LOCAL LOTTO SUPPORTERS**

2 Prizes of €50 each – Winners – Eugene Stynes and Andy Faulkner.

6 Prizes of €25 each – Winners – Nora Coates, Gretta O'Brien, Mel Reilly,

Eugene Leonard, Anna Mae Byrne and Jean Mernagh.

1 Promoters Prize of €25 – Winner – Breda Reilly.

Thank you for your continued support.

**IRISH CATHOLIC – available in Rathvilly Church each week. Cost €2.50.**

**Please use hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the Church.**  
**PLEASE SOCIAL DISTANCE IN OUR LARGE CHURCHES – Thank you.**

## **Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> December – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

We celebrate Mary who, from the first instant of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, was 'by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin'.

## **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Rathvilly Kiltegan Branch of SVP have a busier time in the approach to Christmas.

Parishioners wishing to support the work of SVP can become active members or make a donation and mark their envelope SVP. The National Annual collection will be at all Masses 11th/12th December. Please do your best to support.

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

**LOTTO**-No jackpot winner. Winning numbers were 6 – 10 – 23 – 27

Match Three: win or share €150

Paul Murphy, Boggotts Wood, Tynock 6 - 10 - 14 - 27      Fergal Harmon

Mike Byrne, Father Cullen Terrace 6 - 10 - 18 - 23      Breda Keogh

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Brian Curran, Woodgrove Avenue, Rathvilly.

Next draw 6 December 2021      **Jackpot €17,200.** Thank you for all your support

## **RATHVILLY G.A.A. CLUB**

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 7-13-22-26

Match 3 win or share €150.      5 lucky dips

Ryan Sibbald Knockroe

On Line winner

Carol Corcoran Slaney Bank

On Line winner

Nicola Murphy Phelan St.

On Line winner

Elaine O'Brien Fr. Cullen Tce.

Jenny Donegan

Sue Molloy Rathvilly

Collette Kelly

Promoters Prize €20

Mick Kehoe

Next draw 7 Dec. 2021. **Jackpot €5,400**

## **A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH -** **Second Sunday of Advent**

Deacon Liam Dunne

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus commences as one would expect a story or encomium in the ancient world to begin: namely, with high and mighty figures. It was exceedingly rare for a poet or historian in that time to concentrate on marginal or low-class figures. Accordingly, the Evangelist references Quirinius, the Roman governor of Syria, and Caesar Augustus, effectively the ruler of the world. But then he pulls the rug out from under his reader, for it becomes clear that Luke's story is not about those potentates at all, but rather about two nobodies. Mary and Joseph, making their way, in the manner of poor refugees, from one dusty outpost to another. God, he is reminding us, works in unexpected ways, and is found in unexpected places. **Bishop Robert Barron**