

***Matthew 5:38-48 A love that liberates***

This is one of the most challenging passages in the Gospels, sometimes described as Jesus' unreasonable command. The instruction to love our enemies appears to contradict the calls for retribution we hear in the world around us and our instinct for self-preservation, but Jesus is not encouraging passiveness. He is inviting people to a 'third way': to make a nonviolent stand when faced with persecution. The easy option is to retaliate, to not see our sister or brother standing before us, but by offering the 'other cheek', we acknowledge our shared humanity. 'Loving our enemies' is a call to constantly move towards restoring relationships.

Jesus reminds us that everyone is a child of God, that God loves everyone and every part of creation, without exception. It's easier said than done, but Jesus calls us to meet hatred with love, to make room for forgiveness'. What happens to Jesus at the hands of his persecutors does not diminish his love for them. The exhortation to 'be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect' is a deep call to love with the fierceness that God loves.

In 1987, just hours after his twenty-year-old daughter Marie was killed in an IRA bomb in Enniskillen, came the powerful words of Gordon Wilson, 'I bear no ill will, I bear no grudge. Dirty sort of talk is not going to bring her back to life. She is in heaven, and we shall meet again. I will pray for these men tonight and every night.' His words had a powerful impact on the Northern Ireland conflict. His extraordinary capacity to forgive the people who caused him pain helped the slow process of healing and reconciliation. Gordon Wilson was the personification of the words of Jesus to 'love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'.

That is a love that liberates. Copyright © Triona Doherty & Jane Mellett, 2022.

*The Deep End, A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew.*

"I can't wait for my neighbour to love me! If I do, the space between us may never be bridged. Mine must be a creative and often costly love, as is God's love for me ... There are [those] who don't love me at all, nor do I love them! And yet my little love-rope must be cast out to them: I must wish them well, and not demand a responding rope from their side of the divide. - Brian Grogan

**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)**

**Registered Charity Number 20015848**

**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**

**18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**

**St. Patrick's  
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption  
Tynock**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Recent Deaths:** Fr Tim Galvin, St. Patrick's Missionary & South Sudan.  
Marita Kavanagh, Graigue, Kiltegan Agnes Nolan, Baltinglass

**ANNIVERSARY MASSES**

**Sat/Sun, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**Months Mind Mass** for Jimmy Kearns, Rathvilly this Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> February.

**ANNIVERSARY MASSES**

Eithne Condon, Cnoc Mhuire – 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary	Martin Molloy, Rathvilly
Helen Smith, St. Patrick's Park – 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary	Joe Curran, Collins Park
Laurence (Chappie) Byrne, Knockroe	Mary & Mick Byrne, The Moate
Billy Leonard, Collins Park	John & Ellen Doyle, Portriton, Kiltegan
Denis & Mary Anne Connors, Rathdaniel and deceased family members	
Mai & Jack Carson, Ricketstown	Laurence & Mary Dowling, Rathmore
Ellen Byrne, Maplestown	

**Sat/Sun, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February**

James & Mary Ellen McNamara, Ballyoliver and deceased family members	
James & Elizabeth Byrne, Ballyoliver	Mary Hanlon, Ricketstown
Patrick Hanlon, Bough	Kate Hanlon, Borris
Annie Dempsey, Ricketstown	Nan Sibbald, Phelan Street
Johnny Dempsey	Willie Fox, Coppengagh

**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RATHVILLY**

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday – Mass at 9.30 a.m. Sat 7.30 pm Sun 11 am.

**Wednesday, 22nd February – Ash Wednesday - Mass at 11.30 a.m.**

**Blessed Ashes will be available at both Masses – Tynock 9.45 & Rathvilly 11.30 am**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – Thursday - 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.**

**CONFESSION** Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Confessional & during Thursday's adoration.

**ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN**

Mass on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30 a.m.

Reader: Siobhan Doyle.

**CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK**

**Ash Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Mass at 9.45 a.m.**

Mass on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00 p.m.

Reader: Mary Byrne.

### COLLECTION FOR SYRIA & TURKEY

Bishop Nulty is requesting that a collection be taken up at all Masses this weekend, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of February, for the people of Syria and Turkey.

There is an immediate and urgent need for humanitarian aid in this region, your support is greatly appreciated. Baskets will be circulated after Holy Communion.

### LENT 2023

This Lent we learn about Somalia and how conflict and climate change have led to an unprecedented food crisis in an already vulnerable part of the world.

Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church.

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

Results for 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 Numbers: 04 – 23 – 26 – 27.

No Jackpot winner of €14,000. 14 Match 3s get €72.00 No local winner this week.

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

On **Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February the Jackpot is €15,000.** Tickets €2.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. Full results on our website.

### WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €348.09

Envelopes €610.20

Kiltegan: Offertory €181.00

Envelopes €188.00

### RATHVILLY G.A.A. CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 12-14-16-19

Match 3 win or share €150

Martina Byrne Monavothé 8-12-14-16

Mick Kehoe

Bernie Dunne c/o H. Deering 12-16-19-24

H. Deering

Masie O'Brien Ricketstown 6-12-14-16

Mick Kehoe

Next draw 21 Feb. 2023 **Jackpot € 8,700**

### SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 2 - 8 - 12 - 13

Shane and Ger McSweeney, Baltinglass 2-8-13-17

Daniel O'Brien

Mrs. C. Gahan, Rathoe 2-8-12-24

Martin Curran

Dylan Connors, Collins Park 2-6-8-12

Jenny Connors

Liam Keogh, Fr. Cullen Terrace 2-8-12-16

Brian Curran

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

Brian Curran

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

Next draw 21 Feb. 2023 **Jackpot €20,000.** Thank you for your support.

**Golden Goal Fundraiser Result - [7]** Golden goal fundraiser result:

Premier, Spurs v Man City - the winning minute was 15th and the winner

of €60 was Anthony Byrne, Woodgrove Avenue, Rathvilly

### Desert Fathers A Lenten Program for men \*\*\*

A lenten program for men has been developed by an Irish priest to help men make this Lent different. The program contains 4 pillars - Prayer, Penance, Spiritual reading & Charity. To find out more and join an online group a zoom information meeting is scheduled for Sunday Feb 19th at 8:30pm. Meeting ID 494 625 9738 Password: 997298. Email [desertfathers40@gmail.com](mailto:desertfathers40@gmail.com) for a copy of the program.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON OF LENT

In the past, Lent was often seen as a time to look down on ourselves. Words such as 'temptation', 'evil', 'sin', and 'guilt' were often dominant, leaving some people in darkness and despair. This was extremely damaging for many. Thankfully, today we are trying to let go of such language and see Lent for what it really is, a time for transformation, healing and encounter. Indeed, for some people today, it is one of their favorite Church Seasons! New Year's resolutions are probably well out the window by the time Lent comes around, so in a real sense it brings us the opportunity of a new beginning, a chance to start again. Lent offers us a time for deep reflection, and for those of us who hear and read the Gospel each week during this Season, the texts offer a richness that can bring freshness to our lives. Lent is a journey of preparation for Easter, a time to refresh our relationship with God, with those we love and cherish, with those we find difficult to love to love and with God's creation. Lent is like a time of stocktaking: what's here that shouldn't be? What do I need to let go of? Where do I need to spend more time? The intention is not to beat ourselves up; rather, it is to set out on a journey that will help us live our best lives with our hearts open. This is what Jesus wants for us. We read on the First Sunday of Lent that our first stop is the wilderness. Here we embrace three tools to assist us: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. A suggestion for this Season might be to spend more time with God's Word, to give up some luxury, and to either donate what you can to your favorite charity or to give your time to something or someone. These practices help us to focus and to grow in deeper awareness of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

During this time, it is good for us to remove ourselves from our normal routines, to be still, and to stop and breathe. We need not be afraid of this, for the Gospel shows us that time spent in the wilderness is Spirit-led, and we are not alone. We hope that you can use the following reflections to spend more time this Lent with God's Word, in prayer for transformation, renewal and encounter with the One who journeys with us. Copyright © Triona Doherty & Jane Mellett, 2022. *The Deep End, A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew.*

### ST. PATRICK'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY, KILTEGAN

Staff Nurse Vacancies: 1. Permanent – 26 hours/week

2. Fixed Term – to August 2023 (earliest) 3. Relief position.

Applications should be made via email attaching a CV and cover letter to Maebh

Doran, Director of Care, at [directorofcare@spms.ie](mailto:directorofcare@spms.ie) before 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, Rathvilly/Kiltegan - 083 1494412**