

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Deacon Rev. Liam Dunne

*John 9:1-41*

**‘He 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, that some scholars think it may actually have been acted out, as it had 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 this 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 difficulty 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 from 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. Copyright © Triona Doherty & Jane Mellett, 2022. *The Deep End, A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew.*

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

*Rumi*

### **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**

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**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

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## **RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH**

### **NEWSLETTER**

**St. Brigid’s  
Talbotstown**

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

**St. Patrick’s  
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption  
Tynock**

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

**Recent Deaths:**    Sean Furlong, Kiltegan    Ann Leonard, Rahill  
Fr. Paddy Daly, Retired Diocesan Priest    Fr. Seán Rynn, St. Patrick’s, Kiltegan  
Elizabeth Wybrant, Knockananna    Mattie Cowman, Bagenalstown

### **ANNIVERSARY MASSES**

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

Maura & Seamus Tobin, Dublin	Dr. Elizabeth Harpur, Rathvilly
Larry Byrne, Maplestown	Dr. Fergus Kirk, Rathvilly
John Foley, Bough	Dr. Patricia Horne, Dublin
Michael & Madeline Curran, St. Patrick’s Park	John Treacy, Ballintraine
Martin & Mary Curran, Ballybit	Seamus Cummins Ballon
Nolan Family, Baltinglass	Mary Tustain, Kevin Barry Road
Cummins Family, Ballintraine	Shaun Leonard, Rahill
Kathleen Lawlor, Phelan Street	Jim Healy, Ricketstown

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

**Months Mind Mass** for Peter Reilly, Kevin Barry Road on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March  
Terry Redmond, Delacy Abbey      Kathleen Curry, Ballybit  
Eileen Doyle, Lisnavagh      Susan Kavanagh, Ballybit

### **ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH, RATHVILLY**

**Monday – Feast of St Joseph** – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

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

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March – Feast of The Annunciation** – Mass at 11.00 a.m.

**There will be Stations of the Cross on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 p.m.**

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

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

### **CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK**

Mass on St. Patrick’s Day at 9.30 a.m.

Mass on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Lucilla Brophy.

Reader: Muireann Gartland.

### **ST. BRIGID’S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN**

Mass on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00 p.m.

Reader: Joe O’Brien.

### **FIRST PENANCE**

First Penance takes place on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March in Talbotstown Church at 7 p.m. for children attending Talbotstown & Tynock School.

First Penance takes place on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March in Rathvilly Church at 7 p.m. for children attending Rathmore and Rathvilly School.

### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Adoration Presentation will be given at weekend Masses of 25th and 26th March. Can you see yourself sparing one hour in the week to sit still, to pray and to rest with Jesus?

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

Results for 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 Numbers: 10 – 15 – 16 – 27.

No Jackpot winner of €12,000. 10 match 3s get €100 each – No local winner.

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

On **Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March** the **Jackpot is €13,000**. 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> March, 2023**

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €334.11

Envelopes €455.20

Kiltegan: Offertory €68.41

Envelopes €122.00

### **TRÓCAIRE – 50 years – 1973 - 2023**

You can help them build a better future this Lent. Trócaire Boxes in the Church.

To mark Mother's Day this year, we share the story of Ambiyo, and how her love for her children gives her hope for a better future.

### **Meet the Mahat family**

Ambiyo, her husband Mahat, and their eight young children ranging in age from 14 years to two weeks' old have been living in Boyle (pronounced "boy-lay")

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp outside Luuq in Gedo Region, southern Somalia, since March 2022.

They are among hundreds of thousands of Somalis forced to flee their homes due to a fourth consecutive year of drought which has ravaged the country. In 2023, an estimated 8.25 million people, nearly half of Somalia's population, will need immediate lifesaving assistance.

The Mahat family left their home in Dor Murah village in Bakool region, approximately 55 kms from Luuq, after their crops failed and the last of their 200 goats died. They say their only option was to leave – or stay and face starvation and death. After walking for three days, they arrived in Boyle with, as Mahat (39) put it, "nothing but the clothes on our backs". Ambiyo (36) was five months pregnant with her 9th child. When we arrived at the IDP camp we very weak and tired.

### **THE CELTIC TENORS**

The St. Tegan's Hall Committee are delighted to announce the return of The Celtic Tenors to St. Tegan's Hall, Kiltegan on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April at 8 p.m.

Tickets available at 059 6473143. We are fortunate to be offered a performance by these internationally acclaimed artists. A wonderful night is assured.

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

### **EASTER CEREMONIES - Tynock & Talbotstown Churches**

A Meeting takes place on: **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March in Tynock Church at 7 p.m.** for Church Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors and anyone would like to help with the Easter Ceremonies.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass** for Bishop Moriarty will be celebrated on Sunday March 26th at 7pm in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow.
- **Chrism Mass** - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Cathedral of the Assumption, 7.30pm.

### **DAFFODIL DAY**

Patricia Lawlor and Staff are hosting Daffodil Day on Friday 24th March in Rathvilly Pharmacy 9am to 6pm. Please call in to show your support.

All proceeds donated to Irish Cancer Society.

### **FAMILY CARERS IRELAND'S**

March 2023 support group meetings for carers will take place as follows:

Carlow Carers Support Group meeting on Tuesday, 21st March from 11am to 1pm in the Cathedral Parish Centre. Please contact the Family Carers Ireland Kilkenny/Carlow office on 056 7721424 with any queries.

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

Lotto Results. No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 1-7-28-29

Match 3 win or share €150

Tom McCall Bough 1-7-29-30

On Line winner

Next draw 21 March 2023 **Jackpot €9,100**

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 4 - 5 - 14 - 16

There were four match three winners, who shared €160:

Bridie Donoghue, Parkmore, Baltinglass 4-5-14-15

Breda Keogh

Marie O'Brien, Ricketstown, Rathvilly 4-12-14-16

Michael Kehoe

Trish and Fergal Harmon, Kiltegan 4-14-16-23

Fergal Harmon

Amanda McCabe, Fr. Cullen Terrace 5-11-14-16

Jenny Donegan

Promoter's prize €20 was Joe Curran, Woodgrove Avenue, Rathvilly.

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

### **COUNTY CARLOW ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK (CCEN) FREE EVENT.**

On Sunday 2nd of April, County Carlow Environmental Network (CCEN) is showing the film The Letter: A message for our Earth in An Gairdín Beo, Carlow town. A visually stunning film which is a call to action led by Pope Francis to all communities to care for our common home, the Earth. Starting with pizza at 5.30pm and film showing at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome but booking is required.

[www.eventbrite.com/e/the-letter-a-message-for-our-earth-tickets-587430138357](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-letter-a-message-for-our-earth-tickets-587430138357)

Email: [info@ccen.ie](mailto:info@ccen.ie) if any questions.