

Third Sunday of Advent – Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

Gospel – Matthew 11:2-11 What sort of Messiah is this?

John the Baptist is in prison because he challenged Herod for marrying his brother's wife. We learn later in the Gospel that Herod has John beheaded. While John is in prison, fear and doubt set in. John is wondering if Jesus really is the Messiah. This is quite a turnaround from the John who felt unworthy to baptize Jesus in the Jordan and who declared 'the kingdom of Heaven has come near' (3:2). John led quite an ascetic life and fasted frequently. The reports he now hears about Jesus include fasting, telling his disciples they do not have to fast, associating with tax collectors, drunkards and sinners. So one can understand why John began to have doubts. What sort of Messiah is this?

During these times, people had a checklist of ways to recognize the Messiah; it included liberating captives, healing the sick, raising the dead and restoring sight to the blind. Jesus' response to John's enquiries is that his actions speak for themselves. Jesus' actions are reminiscent of the Jubilee year of restoration (Lev 25; Isa 61) where injustices would be overturned, the land would be restored and the people given a fresh start. All of these things are being fulfilled in Jesus' ministry. The Gospel ends with a paradox: John is the greatest that has ever been born; yet the people who are considered the 'lowest' or the 'least' in this world are considered even greater than John by God. The more we reflect on this statement, the more we come to see that both aspects of it are true and in harmony with one another. In this new age that John has announced, the poorest and those considered the lowest in society will be greater than John himself. This is the Kingdom of Heaven that Matthew announces to his readers. A new era, a great upheaval has begun. © Triona Doherty & Jane Mellet, 2022. *A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew.* (Dublin: Messenger Publications 2022).

"The problem is not feeding the poor, or clothing the naked, or visiting the sick, but rather recognising that the poor, the naked, the sick, prisoners, and the homeless have the dignity to sit at our table, to feel 'at home' among us, to feel part of a family. This is a sign that the Kingdom of Heaven is in our midst. *Pope Francis*

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

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

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

St. Brigid's

Talbotstown

Sat/Sun, 13th & 14th December, 2025

St. Patrick's

Rathvilly

The Assumption

Tynock

Third Sunday of Advent

Recent Death: Kathleen Skelton nee Cole late of Rathdaniel. Mass of Christian Burial takes place on Monday at 12 Noon in St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly.

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 13th & 14th December

Theresa Curran, Collins Park – 1st Anniversary

Mick & Mary Byrne, The Moate

Bill Gahan, 25 Collins Park

Tommy Kelly, Ballyoliver

Jackie Kelly, Manchester & late of Ballyoliver

Deceased members of the Power & Kelly families

Paddy O'Donoghue, Kevin Barry Road

Des Conway, Barnhill

John Dunne, Carlow

Ellen & Edward Keegan, The Moate

Eileen & Denis Byrne, St. Patrick's Park & deceased family members

Fr Nicholas Cullen, former PP

Jim Doyle, Coole

Denis & Mary Kelly, Haroldstown

Thomas & Bridie Kehoe, Ballyoliver

Kathleen Balfe, Rahill

John Balfe, Rahill

Gretta Bolger, Rathvilly

Richard & Mary Canavan

Breda Brennan

Sat/Sun, 20th & 21st December

Months Mind Mass for Jennifer Curry, Ballybit on Sunday, 21st December at 11 a.m.

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Fr Edward Flood former Parish Priest

Joe McGuirk, Ricketstown

Paddy Geraghty, Mayo

Lena Watt nee McGuirk, Australia

Breda & Patsy Molloy, Ricketstown & Rathvilly

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Sunday, 14th December – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Nigel Byrne.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Saturday, 20th December – Mass at 6.00 p.m.

Reader – Siobhan Doyle.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RATHVILLY MASSES

Monday 12 Noon, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday – 9.30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS PENANCE SERVICE

Baltinglass Church on Tuesday, 16th December at 7.30 p.m.

Rathvilly Church on Thursday, 18th December at 7.30 p.m.

Tullow Church on Friday, 19th December at 7.30 p.m.

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

CONFIRMATION MASSES – this Sunday, 14th December

Tynock Church at 9.30a.m. Rathvilly Church at 11 a.m.

ADVENT SCRIPTURE SHARING takes place on Friday 19th Dec at 6 p.m. in St Patrick's Church, Rathvilly.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 6th & 7th December

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €280.36

Envelopes €636.20

Kiltegan: Offertory €84.12

Envelopes €243.20

CHURCH RADIO

The frequency on the Church Radio has changed to **108 FM**. This is an effort to improve quality of sound for listeners.

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

Results from 10th December 2025 No Jackpot winner of €18,000

Numbers: 05-09-16-30. 16 Match 3 numbers get €63.00 each.

One local match three winner this week.

Winner – Edel O'Brien. Promoter – Tommy Donovan

Next draw on Wednesday, 17th December. **Jackpot €19,000.**

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

Thank you to our parishioners for supporting the Lotto.

CHURCH CLEANERS

We would ask for volunteers who could spare some time on a weekly or fortnightly basis to help with cleaning the Church. The tasks involved would be Hoovering, polishing and general tidying. All help on this matter would be greatly appreciated. Please give your name to the Parish Office if you would be available to help. 059 9161114 Mon – Fri – 10 am – 1 pm. Thank you!

Message from Bishop Denis re - Dept of Education survey on school patronage

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland.

It is important that those who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard. It is equally important that those who wish for a Catholic Education for their children and for those who would wish for sacramental preparation within school would have their voice heard also. For those reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, please participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a primary school student. The survey can be accessed at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/> The survey closes on 16th December 2025.

RATHVILLY HERITAGE INTEREST GROUP

Christmas Draw - **Wheelbarrow Hamper on display locally.** €5 per line.

Draw takes place on Saturday, 13th December in the Harp Bar.

THE THREE TENORS LIVE

Friday 19th December at 8.30pm, Holy Family Church, Askea. Tickets €30, available in the Parish Office or the Day Care Centre or www.eventbrite.ie All welcome.

RATHVILLY COMMUNITY ALERT/TEXT ALERT

Now that Winter is upon us giving dull foggy days and dark evenings, many people are out walking and jogging and we would like to impress the importance of being seen on our narrow rural roads. We would stress the importance of making sure you can be seen and to wear a hi-viz jacket or bright clothing. It is common sense and your life is in your own hands. There are speed limits on rural roads which many drivers ignore so it is important for pedestrians and cyclists to make sure they can be seen. If you own a dog it should be on a leash when out walking and always under control. It is the law. Each year there are incidents of stray dogs attacking sheep because owners are not being vigilant in keeping them supervised.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A cancer ward is no place to spend Christmas. Your faith in action can give precious comfort and peace. Make a Christmas gift now to help a child get expert care they urgently need. For confidential advice, support and information, call Freephone 1800 200 700 or email supportline@irishcancer.ie Donations from this year's Christmas Crib will be given to this great cause.

RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 3-17-28-29

Match 3 win or share €150

Margaret Dunne Athy 3-17-22-29

On Line winner

Next draw 16 Dec. 2025 **Jackpot €5,700**

A group has been formed to commence the interesting work of compiling a **history of Rathvilly GAA**. The research will span over a hundred years of activity and it is essential that a complete picture as possible of our Club's history is compiled.

How can you help?

Have you any old photographs, medals, newspaper reports/cut-outs, pictures, match programmes, trophies, memorabilia of any type. If you have anything please let us know by sending an email to history.rathvillygaa@gmail.com and a member of the Group will be in contact with you. We would love to hear from you.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 11-22-23-29

Elisha Ryan, Kiltegan 11-19-22-29

Online Winner

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Joe Curran, Woodgrove Avenue

Next draw 16th. December 2025 Jackpot €3,700. Thank you for all your support.

IRISH CONVERSATION GROUP

Meet each Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Teach Bhride, Tullow. All welcome.

Graigucullen CHRISTMAS MONSTER Bingo Sunday 14th December
St. Fiaccs Hall @ 3pm Jackpot on 48 numbers €2,780 Double number €530
Lotto €1150 Bonus Ball €500