

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

Gospel – Matthew 1:18-24 *The dream*

Today's Gospel recalls the central role played by Joseph in the story of Jesus. While Matthew's Gospel is very clearly an account of Jesus 'the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham', Joseph takes center stage in the first scene of the Jesus story. He is introduced as a good man with a serious dilemma. Instead of calling off his engagement to Mary – leaving her to face severe punishment or even the death penalty – he opts to 'dismiss her quietly'. This incident introduces a tension that will be seen throughout Matthew's Gospel between obedience to the letter of the law and 'righteousness'.

There is more to the story. In a dream, Joseph receives a message about the baby, whose name is given as Jesus. Matthew adds a note here that this fulfils the prophecy of the birth of *Emmanuel*, 'God is with us'. God is present – God-with-us – from the earliest of Jesus' story, Joseph's response is immediate and radical. Rather than doing what's expected or even taking the kinder option available to him, he follows the invitation of God and forges a new path. This new way is very much in the spirit of the late teachings of Jesus, particularly when he counsels his followers, 'You have heard that it was said ... but I say to you ...' (5:21-48). Joseph is open and compassionate, going above and beyond for the sake of the kingdom.

Joseph is sometimes depicted in statue form as 'Sleeping Joseph'. He shows us how God reveals God's plan in times of silence and rest. Even when we are doing the right things and living a virtuous life, God can surprise us, picking apart lines we draw between people. We are constantly being nudged out of our comfort zone, towards others, to become ever more compassionate, loving and open to God's dream for us.

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

"Only in the sacredness of inward silence does the soul truly meet the secret, hiding God. The strength of resolve, which afterwards shapes life, and mixes itself with action, is the fruit of those sacred, solitary moments. There is a divine depth in silence. We meet God alone.
– *Frederick William Robertson*

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**

**St. Patrick's
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption
Tynock**

**DOUBLE ISSUE – 21st & 28th December, 2025
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS**

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

Sat/Sun, 20th & 21st December

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Fr Edward Flood former Parish Priest

Fr Dermot McDermott, former Curate

Joe McGuirk, Ricketstown

Kevin Barry, Tombeagh

Paddy Geraghty, Mayo

Joan & Kevin Meagher

Lena Watt nee McGuirk, Australia

Tom & Theresa Agar

Breda & Patsy Molloy, Ricketstown & Rathvilly

Eamonn Lawlor, Coole

Mary Guilfoyle – 1st Anniversary

Sat/Sun, 27th & 28th December

Joe McCall, Bough

Harry & Bridget Byrne, Fr. Cullen Tce.

Matthew & Margaret Byrne, Ballymanus

Jimmy & Gretta Fowler, Birmingham

Margaret Rudkins & deceased family members

Paddy & Nora Quinn, Roscommon

James & Mary Smith, Coole & dec. family members

Sheila Fitzpatrick, Mt Kelly

Jim Smith, London & Coole

John Fitzpatrick, Ardnahue

Sat/Sun, 3rd & 4th January

James, Teresa & Johnny McGuire and deceased family members

Mary Plant, Rahill & Ann O'Connor nee Plant

Paddy & Elizabeth Kelly, Ricketstown & deceased family members

John & Betty Farrell, Bernadette Coyle and Myra Farrell, Maynooth

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

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

Reader – Siobhan Doyle.

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass at 8.00 p.m.

Reader – Mary Kelly, Feddan.

Sunday, 4th January – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Fiona Kane.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Christmas Day – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Mary Byrne.

Sunday, 28th December – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Lucilla Brophy.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RATHVILLY MASSES

Monday & Tuesday – 9.30 a.m.

Wednesday, 24th December – Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 6.00 p.m.

Thursday, 25th December – Christmas Day – Mass 11.00 a.m.

Friday, 26th December – Mass 11.00 a.m.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 29/30/31 December – Mass 10.00 a.m.

Thursday, 1st January – Mass 11.00 a.m. Friday, 2nd January – Mass 10.00 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS - Monday, 22nd Dec. 10.30 am – 12.30 pm.
Office reopens on Friday, 2nd January 10 am – 1 pm.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – will resume on Friday, 9th January 3 – 6 p.m.

CHURCH RADIO - The frequency on the Church Radio has changed to **108 FM**.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT CONCERT – St Patrick's Church, Rathvilly

Carols by Candlelight concert will take place this Sunday 21st December at 7pm.
All are welcome to attend this annual Christmas concert.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we celebrate Christmas and end 2025, I reflect on a busy year in our Rathvilly Kiltegan Parish Community. We have shared times of joy and sorrow. We have marked notable anniversaries and coped with our share of disappointments. Since February we have had the involvement of the 3 Kiltegan Fathers from Baltinglass, Frs John, Lawrence and Vincent. Our parish is fortunate to have four excellent schools for the education of our primary children. Each of them has just offered a Christmas concert in the days gone by. I would like to wish you all and the members of your extended families every blessing of joy and happiness at Christmas and in the year 2026. I wish to acknowledge the assistance of a great number of people in helping in our liturgies and parish celebrations. Thanks to our deacon Liam Dunne, the sacristans, musicians, readers, collectors, ministers of the Word and of Holy Communion, and to all who assist in any way in the building up of our parish and community. Looking forward to building on our strengths into the future as we continue to 'Push out into the Deep'. Our Parish is in the same pastoral area as Baltinglass, Hacketstown, Clonmore and Tullow.

I invite people of all age groups to offer their services in any way you might like to help. Forging a future with our neighbouring parishes is a project you can all help in.

Together we are stronger. Msgr. John McEvoy PP

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 13th & 14th December

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €307.52

Envelopes €626.00

Kiltegan: Offertory €121.67

Envelopes €190.20

Next years Envelopes are being distributed to families. If you do not receive a box and would like to contribute to the Parish, please contact the Parish Office.

Please put your name on the envelope.

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

Results from 17th December 2025 One Jackpot winner of €19,000

Winner – Fergal Johnson, Newbridge Parish.

Numbers: 09-17-27-31. 14 Match 3 numbers get €72.00 each.

No local match three winner this week.

Next draw on Wednesday, 7th January. **Jackpot €10,000.**

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

Thank you to our parishioners for supporting the Lotto.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the recent SVP Annual Collection. A total of €1,582.47 was collected – Rathvilly area €914.80 and Kiltegan area €667.67.

RATHVILLY HERITAGE INTEREST GROUP

We would like to thank everyone who supported and helped with our wheelbarrow Christmas Hamper Draw. Thanks to Msgr John McEvoy for helping with the draw. The winner was John Lennon Knocklishen beg, Kiltegan.

INVITATION TO MASS FOR THE CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

Dioceses across the world will mark the closing of the Jubilee Year on the Feast of the Holy Family, December 28. This day coincides with the closing of Holy Doors in the Roman Basilicas of Saint Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. The Jubilee Year will officially conclude with the closing of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome by Pope Leo on January 6.

Bishop Denis invites all parishioners across the diocese to join him in giving thanks for the graces of the Jubilee Year in the celebration of the Mass, in the Cathedral of the Assumption Carlow, at 10:30 am Mass. Music will be led by the Cathedral Choir.

RATHVILLY COMMUNITY ALERT/TEXT ALERT

The Chairman and Committee would like to wish all parishioners a safe and Happy Christmas, and a good New Year too. We would ask everybody to be a good neighbour during Winter months and keep a lookout for elderly and vulnerable neighbours. Keep your property locked up securely, and if you are concerned about anything to do with your safety or anything suspicious contact Gardai on 059 91 81160. If you have a Care Unit make sure you wear your pendant.

RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers Drawn 1-7-23-26

Match 3 win or share €150

Lar Corcoran Ballyhackett 1-7-14-23

On Line winner

Next draw 23 Dec. 2025 **Jackpot €5,800**

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 11-18-20-22

Brendan Faulkner, Rathvilly 4-11-18-22

Post Office

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Fergal Harmon, Kiltegan.

Next draw 23rd. December 2025 Jackpot €3,800. Thank you for all your support.

RATHVILLY SENIOR FOROIGE YOUTH NIGHT

On Friday 21st November we had a youth night in Bigstone Hall. It was a great night which was a way of getting to explain what Foroige is about. We had great Music, Irish Dancing and food. It was a great experience for the people who attended and it was also great fun setting up and planning the night. We hope everyone who attended enjoyed the night. We hope to organise another night in the near future.

Thank you all and Merry Christmas.