

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

Gospel – John 1:29-34 *Look, here he is*

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist is inviting us to *look* at Jesus. He calls Jesus the 'lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world'. We hear these words often in our liturgies and today we are invited to meditate on them more closely. In Jesus' time, two lambs were sacrificed in the Temple in Jerusalem each day. Lambs were also sacrificed if individuals needed to preform an act of ritual purity. John refers to Jesus as the lamb of God, because he knows that for Jesus living and preaching a love that was and still is radical for many will involve suffering, even death, at the hands of the systems that he challenges.

Sin is a word we are not fond of these days, and for good reason, but one definition of 'sin' is a 'broken relationship', between people and themselves, people and the world and between people and God. We are not short of situations in our world where this is reality: poverty, greed, violence, war, hunger, unjust economic systems, and even ecological sin. In 2019, at a Vatican conference on 'Criminal Justice and Corporate Business', Pope Francis stated that 'ecological sin' would be included in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. He said that ecological sin 'manifests itself in acts and habits of pollution and destruction of the harmony of the environment'. He included 'ecocide', the massive contamination of air, land and water resources, the wide scale destruction of biodiversity and 'any action capable of producing an ecological disaster or destroying an ecosystem'.

The 'sins of the world' are all around us, but so are those who strive to 'take away' these sins. Jesus' immense love is not a passive love; he does not accept that sin and death will have the final say, yet he comes with the gentleness of a lamb. Today's Gospel invites us to look at the lamb of God, actively easing the world's suffering. When we hear these words, may we be reminded of all those who sacrifice much to ease the suffering of others. This is Christ, the 'lamb of God' active and present in our here and now.

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

"Love is reckless; not reason. Reason seeks a profit. Love comes on strong, consuming herself unabashed. Yet, in the midst of suffering, love proceeds like a millstone, hard-surfaced and straight forward. Having died to self-interest, she risks everything and asks for nothing. Love gambles away every gift God bestows. – *Rumi*

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****RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH****NEWSLETTER****St. Brigid's
Talbotstown****St. Patrick's
Rathvilly****The Assumption
Tynock****Sat/Sun, 17th & 18th January 2026 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time****ANNIVERSARY MASSES****Sat/Sun, 17th & 18th January**

Frances Faulkner, Collins Park

Kathleen Faulkner, St. Patrick's Park

Bill Gahan, 18 Collins Park

Jim Kearns, Rathvilly

Cindy Garside, St. Patrick's Park

Vera Lawlor, Rathvilly

Christopher Lawlor, Rathvilly

William Lawlor, Rathvilly

Joe & Sheila Kirwan, Mt. Kelly

John St Ledger, Waterstown

Mary Faulkner, Raheen, Baltinglass

Eileen Balfe, Rahill

Christina Balfe, Rahill

Kathleen Doyle, Bough

Michael Kane, Bough

Sat/Sun, 24th & 25th January**Months Mind Mass:** Marie Steward, Woodgrove Ave. on Sat/Sun, 24/25 January**ANNIVERSARY MASSES**

Timmy Kelly, Fr. Cullen Tce.

Martha & Billy Leonard, Collins Park

Matthew O'Toole, Slaney View

Bridget O'Toole, Slaney View

Olive Leddy

Thomas & Natalie Kelly, Williamstown & deceased family members

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWNSunday, 18th January – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Breedh Murphy.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCKSunday, 25th January – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Veronica Byrne.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RATHVILLY MASSES

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – each Friday 3 – 6 p.m.**CHRISTMAS CRIB**

The Crib will remain open until 1st February. Donations from this year's Christmas Crib will be given to the Children's Cancer Appeal.

RECENT DEATH

The death has taken place on 13th January 2026 of Jack Abbey, Manteca, California, formerly Phelan St. Rathvilly. Predeceased by his parents John & Mary Abbey, his wife Pat and his brother Michael. He is survived by his Son and daughter Derek & Jackie, his grandson Liam (USA), his sister-in-law Bernadette Abbey Tullow, nieces, nephews, cousins and good friends. A private cremation will take place in the US. May He Rest in Peace.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 10th & 11th January

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €279.96

Envelopes €816.00

Kiltegan: Offertory €50.45

Envelopes €90.00

SPECIAL MASSES FOR SACRAMENTS 2026

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Rathmore/Rathvilly NS Sunday, 18th January at 11a.m.

Talbotstown/Tynock NS Sunday, 25th January in Tynock Church at 9.30a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Rathmore/Rathvilly NS Saturday, 17th January at 7.30 p.m.

Talbotstown/Tynock NS Sunday, 18th January in Talbotstown Church at 9.30 a.m.

Catholic Schools Week 2026 – 18 – 24 January - Message from Bishop Denis

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2026, we give thanks for the faith, learning and care that shape daily life in our Catholic schools. This year's theme, "Catholic Schools – Normal Lives, Called to Holiness," reminds us that holiness is lived through simple acts of kindness, respect and love. As Saint (Mother) Teresa said, "We can do small things with great love." In our Catholic schools, children are encouraged to live this message each day through how they treat others and care for their community. We remember and we pray for all of those who attend, support and work in the Catholic Schools in our diocese.

The purpose of CSW is to highlight the distinctive role of Catholic Education in forming young people who understand their lives as purposeful and grounded in faith. Catholic Schools share the priorities of Christ towards the weak, the poor, the disadvantaged. I am so proud of our Catholic Schools, I thank all who work in them, all who are formed by them and all who support them. Our schools are inclusive and welcoming to all. Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin

CHURCH READERS & MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Would you like to become a Church Reader or Minister of Holy Communion?

If so, please contact the Parish Office 059 9161114

Planning and scheduling for this training will take place in February & March.

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

Results from 14th January 2026 No Jackpot winner of €11,000

Numbers: 01-24-26-32. 5 Match 3 numbers get €200.00 each.

One local match three winner this week.

Winner – Ned Foley. Promoter – Rathvilly Post Office.

Next draw on Wednesday, 21st January. **Jackpot €12,000.**

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

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

FOUND – Silver Neck Chain found outside Rathvilly Cemetery recently. Owner can collect in the Sacristy after Mass.

RADIO MARIA

Thank God and sincere thanks also to our many listeners and supporters as RADIO MARIA IRELAND continues to grow. As an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station we enjoy commercial free broadcasting - Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies – do join our growing faith family! Here's how to listen:

1. Via Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210
2. Download our FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND"
3. Streaming on our WEBSITE - www.radiomaria.ie
4. Via our 'Listen Live Radio' link on our Facebook Page.
5. Via PHONE – get live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).
6. Via DAB Radio in Leinster area.

Why not drop a line to our Spiritual Director, Fr Des Farren by text on 089-4672000, by phone on 01-4123456, or come and pay us a visit at Radio Maria Ireland, St. Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22. D22 R7W2

RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 3-20-21-29

Match 3 win or share €150. 5 Lucky Dips

Deirdre Horgan Ballyoliver

On Line winner

Paul Timmons Beechy Park

On Line winner

Declan Clarke Waterstown

On Line winner

Julie Doyle Woodgrove

Post Office

Craig Doyle Hillview Hacketstown

Post Office

Next draw 20 Jan. 2026 **Jackpot €6,200**

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 8-13-17-30

Kitty Kennedy, Ballybit 8-17-25-30

Post Office

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Breda Keogh.

Next draw 20th. January 2026 Jackpot €4,200. Thank you for all your support.

RATHMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL

Quiz night and raffle in aid of Rathmore NS in Lawlor's Rathvilly on Saturday 24th January 2026 at 8.30 p.m. Cost: €40 per team of 4.

ARE YOU A CHILDMINDER CARING FOR CHILDREN IN YOUR OWN HOME?

Carlow County Childcare Committee offers free advice, support and training to Childminders. Our Childminding Development Officer, Eilish Mc Donald, is available to answer any queries you may have on childminding or offer advice and support. For Childminding queries please contact Carlow CCC on 059 9140244 or email info@carlowccc.ie. You may also wish to follow us on Carlow CCC Facebook Page to hear of upcoming training and events for Childminders.