

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

**Gospel – Matthew 17:1-9 ‘It’ is good for us to be here’**

Today’s Gospel describes an overwhelming experience for three of the disciples, Peter, James and John – Jesus’ inner circle. Jesus has been talking about his impending death and resurrection and about the challenges of discipleship (Mt 16:13-27). It’s an intense chapter in their friendship with Jesus, and now they have an opportunity for time alone with him. Mountains are important locations in Matthew’s Gospel, associated with divine revelation, places where heaven touches earth. The trio realise there is something deeper going on as Jesus is transformed before their eyes. The presence of Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) invites parallels between these figures and Jesus, who fulfils both the Law and the Prophets.

‘It is good for us to be here.’ These words of Peter recognise the enormity of the moment. Life is full of opportunities to acknowledge and appreciate the presence of God in others. ‘It is great to see you.’ ‘Thanks for coming.’ We pause with gratitude when we welcome a loved one, particularly if we haven’t seen them in a while. Think of the joyful reunions after the COVID-19 pandemic had abated, and we could visit and hug our loved ones again. How often do we take a moment with God to simply say, ‘Here I am’? Lent gives us that opportunity to press pause and come into the presence of God.

Every moment holds the gift of God’s presence. Sometimes this is referred to as the ‘sacrament of the present moment’, a realisation that God is not ‘out there’ but here and now, in this time and place. We encounter God in both the extraordinary and ordinary moments of life. In times of laughter and joy, when we delight in our loved ones, God is to be found. In times of rest and reflection, God is within. So while we might not identify with the disciple’s experience of the Transfiguration Jesus, if we are attentive to the present moment, we may just find that our world is ablaze with divine love.

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

“Too often we are not present to the beauty, love, and grace that brim within the ordinary moments of our lives ... The secret to prayer is not to try to make God present, but to make ourselves present to God.  
*Ron Rolheiser*

**ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE**

**[www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam](http://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](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)**

**Local Safeguarding Reps: Mary Phelan Elizabeth Austin David Carton**

**Diocesan Director of Safeguarding: Ms Ailish Higgins Email: [safeguarding@kandle.ie](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)**

## **RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH**

### **NEWSLETTER**

**St. Brigid’s  
Talbotstown**

**St. Patrick’s  
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption  
Tynock**

**Sat/Sun, 28<sup>th</sup> February/1<sup>st</sup> March, 2026 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

#### **ANNIVERSARY MASSES**

**Sat/Sun, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb/1<sup>st</sup> March**

Mary Ellen & James McNamara, Ballyoliver and deceased family members  
James & Elizabeth Byrne, Ballyoliver and deceased family members  
Donal McNamara and his sisters Betty & Eileen & Baby Colette & nephew  
Shane McSweeney  
Myles & Mai Carson, Rathmore and deceased family members

**Sat/Sun, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Thomas & Bridget Cassells, Ricketstown  
Anne Byrne, Knocklishen  
Nan Sibbald, Phelan Street  
Pat Kirton – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
Margaret & Joe Raftery  
Deceased members of the Sibbald Family  
William Smith Coole  
Annie & Johnny Dempsey, Ricketstown  
Tom & Julia O Brien, Knocklishen and their son Joseph  
Mick & Dan Abbott, Ballyoliver & deceased family members  
Jim Smith, London and formerly Coole

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

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Fiona Kane.

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

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Muireann Gartland.

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

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

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – each Friday 3 – 6 p.m.**

#### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION SPECIAL MASSES**

Rathmore & Rathvilly NS this Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. in Rathvilly Church at 7.30pm.

#### **BAPTISED AND SENT IN LENT 2026**

The Lenten programme continues on Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Rathvilly Parish meeting room (note earlier time of 7 pm). Through these Lenten reflections, we lay, religious and ordained, are each encouraged to rediscover who we are as God's people, to listen to the Holy Spirit, and to create concrete steps towards living our baptismal calling more deeply. All are welcome.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** each Friday evening at 6 pm after adoration, during lent in St Patrick's Church, Rathvilly.

### **TABLE QUIZ – THANK YOU**

The Table Quiz in aid of St. Patrick's and St. Mary's Churches was a great success. Thank you for your sponsorship and support. Each Church received €1,335.00.

### **WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €207.81                      Envelopes €435.00  
Kiltegan: Offertory €114.95                      Envelopes €311.00

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

Results from 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 No Jackpot winner of €13,000

Numbers: 17-20-23-25. 8 Match 3 numbers get €125.00 each.

No local match three winner this week.

Next draw on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March. **Jackpot €14,000.**

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

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

#### **Digging Deeper – Living Lent: Some suggestions for the week**

† Reflect on next Sunday's Gospel using the material from 'Baptised and Sent in Lent'.

Look out for local group sessions or set up your own group. Resources on [www.synod.ie](http://www.synod.ie)

† Persevere in your chosen resolutions for Lent and remember their purpose is to bring you closer to God

† Find out how you can help a local charity

† Pray the Stations of the Cross

† Cut down on screen time and pay attention to the people around you

† Check that you have a copy of a Catholic edition of the bible in your home and take some time to read it

#### **Gospel Link: Personal Contact with Jesus Transforms us**

In the Transfiguration we see the three disciples with Jesus on a high mountain – often a place in scripture where God makes a special revelation to people. Here they have a moment of real encounter and insight into the reality of who Jesus is. And as Jesus is transformed, they too are transformed. This Gospel reading comes to us near the beginning of Lent. It puts Jesus and our personal encounter with him, at the centre of the Lenten journey. To know Jesus is to know the joy of our faith. Lent is our opportunity to experience the joy of discovering again who Jesus is, to listen to him, to follow him, to be transformed by him. (Julie Kavanagh)

*(For deeper connection with the Gospel see [synod.ie](http://synod.ie) for Baptised and Sent in Lent – a reflection series for Lent)*

### **TALBOTSTOWN NS**

"FUN BINGO" takes place in the Talk of the Town, Kiltegan, on Friday 13th March at 8.30 p.m. Enjoy a fun evening of laughs, prizes and good company. We are raising funds for upgrading classroom facilities. The event is run by the Parents Association in Talbotstown National School.

**CLEANER AVAILABLE – MORNINGS ONLY** Phone Kate 086 8671926

### **DAFFODIL DAY**

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> March – Daffodils and Merchandise will be available in Centra and Rathvilly Pharmacy. Please support.

### **DUFFY'S COACH HIRE**

**Car driver** required for School run – male or female – contact 087 2543235

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje** – still some seats available – contact 087 2543235

### **BIGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Dancing Classes at Bigstone Community Centre eircode =R93 KP8 on Wednesday nights 7.30pm – 9pm - €10 per class. Classes will run for 4 weeks commencing on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March '26. Please come along and Learn to Jive – Waltz – Quickstep – Foxtrot and lots of Fun Line Dances. Getting Fit - Having Fun - Meeting New People. Contact Noeleen - 086 8690332.

### **RATHVILLY GAA CLUB**

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 16-23-26-29

Match 3 win or share €150

Katie Scucchiario Ballyoliver 7-16-23-29                      On Line winner

Mgt. McNamara Fr. Flood Ave 9-16-23-29                      On Line winner

Next draw 3 March 2026 **Jackpot €6,800**

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

No jackpot winner. Lotto numbers drawn on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>. February were 6-8-26-27

Mark Doyle, Michael Collins Park 6-8-10-26                      Online Winner

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

Next draw 3<sup>rd</sup>. March 2026. Jackpot €4,800. Thank you for all your support.

### **Training day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

Would you like to become a Minister of Holy Communion in our parish? The next diocesan training day will be led by Julie Kavanagh and Fr Thomas O'Byrne in the Cathedral Parish Centre from 10am-4pm on Saturday, 7 March. Contact the parish office to book your place. Attendees are asked to bring a packed lunch.

### **FISH ON FRIDAYS**

A new short video series from the Diocese exploring baptism. Videos will be released each Friday of Lent. See Kandle Facebook and X accounts to view this exciting new resource & look out for other posts on Mondays & Wednesdays on Facebook and X.

### **ST COLUMBANUS LECTURE**

Columbanus, The Irish, and Rome on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2026 at 6.30pmin Carlow College – St Patrick's College, College Street, Carlow Town, R93 A003.

Dr Damian Bracken, U.C.C., will deliver a lecture on 'Columbanus, The Irish, And Rome'. The lecture is presented by Carlow College and Carlow County Museum, which is operated by Carlow County Council. This concludes the Ireland and the Birth of Europe Exhibition that is currently on display in the Museum in partnership with The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. All are welcome and admission is free.