

Palm Sunday

Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

Gospel – Matthew 26:14-27:66 ‘Stay awake with me’

Today we meet Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, ‘grieved and agitated’ as he wrestles with the prospect of death. The cross is visibly present in our world, where oppressive systems crucify people, where war and terror inflict death and suffering, where environmental destruction endangers the very fabric of our planet. Here too we meet the crucified Jesus, plummeting into the depths of situations where even God seems absent. But we also look for those who ‘hunger and thirst for righteousness’, those who stand against oppressive systems even though the path is dangerous and lonely. In today’s narrative we meet Simon of Cyrene, who helps Jesus to carry the cross, Joseph of Arimathea, who comes to the aid of Jesus’ friends in their darkest hours, the two women who stay with Jesus until the end, Mary his mother, and Mary Magdalene, sitting outside the tomb when all the other have fled.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022, the world looked on in horror at the death and destruction inflicted on innocent people, but we also saw the outpouring of love and solidarity offered to the millions of refugees created by the war. The helpers were out in force: parents left buggies at train stations, aid convoys from all over Europe, millions of euros raised. The American TV host, Fred Rogers, once said, “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” The many small acts of kindness shown in the aftermath of terrible events add up to a great movement. Our only response to terror and prejudice must be increasing love and solidarity. Yes, we sit with the horrors of the cross this week, but we can also look for the helpers, and we can be the helpers too.

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“Africans believe in something that is difficult to render in English. We call it Ubuntu/botho... You know when it is there and when it is absent. It speaks about humaneness, gentleness, hospitality, putting yourself out on behalf of others, being vulnerable. It embraces compassion and toughness. It recognises that my humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together. – *Desmond Tutu*

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 KILTEAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

**St. Brigid’s
Talbotstown**

**St. Patrick’s
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption
Tynock**

Sat/Sun, 28th & 29th March, 2026 Palm Sunday

Don’t Forget: Clocks go forward one hour this Sunday – one less hour of rain!!

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 28th & 29th March

Leslie Howard Coates, late of Blackpool

Christine Donovan, Rathdangan

Rita Conway, Straboe

Frank Donovan, Tallaght

Daniel Lawlor, Fr Cullen Tce.

Esther O’Brien, Garretstown

John, Anna & Geraldine Cashin

Don Heenan, Williamstown

Sarah Kenny

Kathleen Lawler, Phelan Street

Deceased members of the Cashin & Foley families, Dunlavin & Knockfield

Deceased members of the O’Connor Family, Dublin

Deceased members of the Griffin Family, Dublin

Sat/Sun, 4th & 5th April

Kathleen Smith, 6 St. Patrick’s Park

Paddy Byrne, Garretstown

ST. BRIGID’S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Sunday, 29th March – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion at 6.00 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 6.00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, 5th April – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH, RATHVILLY

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Easter Penance Service – Wednesday, 1st April at 7.30 p.m.

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 8.00 p.m.

Good Friday – Stations of the Cross at 12 Noon

Celebration of the Lord’s Passion at 3.00 p.m.

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil at 8.30 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – No Adoration until Friday, 17th April.

Congratulations to Aisling & Jimmy Maher, Slaney Bank who celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary this weekend.

HOUSEBOUND VISIT FOR APRIL - Holy Week – Easter Visit

Rathvilly area – Tuesday, 31st March 2 – 5 p.m.

Kiltegan area – Wednesday, 1st April – 2 – 5 p.m.

Annual Collection on Good Friday is for the support of the Christian Places in The Holy Land.

CHRISM MASS

You are invited to join Bishop Denis and the clergy of the diocese for the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral, Carlow, on Monday, 30th March at 7:30 pm. This is one of the most important diocesan Masses in the year when the Holy Oils will be blessed and consecrated for use in parishes in the coming year and when the priests of the diocese will renew their priestly promises. Music will be led by Fr Liam Lawton and the Diocesan Choir while tea/coffee will be served in Carlow College, St Patrick's afterwards. Come early!

TRAINING FOR CHURCH READERS

Thursday, 23rd & 30th April & 7th May in The Parish Centre, Tullow from 7 – 9 p.m. Would you like to become a Church Reader, if so, please contact the Parish Office.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Sunday, 12th April in St. Joseph's Church Baltinglass at 3 p.m. Confessions available and veneration of the Divine Mercy Image.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 14th/15th/21st/22nd March

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

14th & 15th March

Rathvilly: Offertory €287.00

Envelopes €399.00

Kiltegan: Offertory € 258.20

Envelopes €236.00

21st & 22nd March

Rathvilly: Offertory €272.11

Envelopes €608.70

Kiltegan: Offertory €170.43

Envelopes €205.00

EASTER COLLECTION – Next weekend for the Clergy Fund. Please support.

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

Results from 25th March, 2026 No Jackpot winner of €10,000

Numbers: 11-25-28-29. 8 Match 3 numbers get €125.00 each.

One local match three winner this week.

Winner – Ena Byrne, Knocklishen. Promoter – Anna Mae Byrne.

Next draw on Wednesday, 1st April. **Jackpot €11,000.**

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

Pentecost Retreat @ Slí an Chroí, St Patricks Missionary Society, Kiltegan

We invite you to relive that first Pentecost – invoking the Holy Spirit as the Church's life giving breath. In quiet prayer, shared reflection, and communal worship we open ourselves to transformation and to a renewed missionary courage for our time.

Friday 22nd May to Sunday 24th May, €315.00 per person. Enquiries to Michele Sinnott slianchroi@spms.ie or 089 4690 508

RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 16-19-21-22

Match 3 win or share €150

Niamh McCall Bough 16-19-22-28

On Line winner

Next draw 31 March 2026 **Jackpot € 7,200**

OLD KNOCKLISHEN SCHOOL

Research is being carried out for a book on the Darcy Family, of which a few members taught in Knocklishen School up to 1920's when it was replaced by Tobinstown School. Anyone who has information about the Darcy Family or who knows of any living relative in Ireland should send contact information to the Parish Office 059 9161114.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto numbers drawn on Tuesday 24th March were 13-19-26-29

Des Smith, Michael Collins Park 9-19-26-29

Jenny Donegan

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Jenny Donegan, Collins Park

Next draw 31st March 2026. Jackpot €5,200. Thank you for all your support.

RATHVILLY HERITAGE INTEREST GROUP

Easter Wheelbarrow Hamper Draw – 1st Prize Wheelbarrow Hamper

2nd Prize Chocolate Hamper from the Chocolate Garden. Draw takes place on

Sunday, 29th March in Lawlor's Bar at 7 p.m. €5 per line available in Centra

Rathvilly or revolut your name and money to 086 8594340.

TABLE QUIZ

Rathvilly NS Parents Association are hosting a Table Quiz on Friday, 17th April in Lawlor's Bar at 8 p.m. €40 per table (4 per table). Prizes for the winners. Raffle on the night. Grab your team, test your knowledge and enjoy a great night out!

Top Ten Ways to Help Pollinators: Don't mow, let it grow!

Reduce mowing to allow native wildflowers like Dandelions, Clover and Birds-foot Trefoil to naturally return over time. By reducing mowing – even to once a month – you will help them to slowly return, one pocket at a time.

Where? Everywhere! Even tiny biodiversity margins are valuable.

www.pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/

FOLKLORE COFFEE

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Daffodil Day Collection.

Together, we raised €428.05 for the Irish Cancer Society. A special word of thanks to Dermot at Rathvilly Garden Centre for his kind donation of fresh Daffodils which greatly added to the day - Clare.

SOUTH EAST FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

HAVE YOU BEEN IMPACTED BY ANOTHER'S DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE?

You don't have to face it alone. The Carlow Peer Family Support Group 'You Are Not Alone' is here for you Learning how caring for yourself can support the whole family. Contract 085-7872730 or 086-6045805 for details

SUPPORT FOR YOURSELF CAN HELP THE WHOLE FAMILY

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

TRÓCAIRE BOXES – Please return your Trócaire Box during Holy Week.