

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

**Gospel – John 4:5-42 Partners in mission**

This lengthy dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan women is one of the most intriguing encounters of the Gospels. The women are aware of the cultural barriers being crossed. ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ she asks. Jesus makes a request of her before he offers her anything, implying a level of equality; the woman is an active rather than passive participant in his ministry. They develop a rapport, discussing ‘living water’, the difference between their religious customs, and the promise of the Messiah. As they talk, the woman moves from calling Jesus ‘a Jew’ to addressing him as ‘Sir’, then to recognising him a ‘prophet’, and finally to announcing him to others as ‘Messiah’. As their connection deepens, she grows in understanding, and her testimony is authentic and convincing. Soon, others are drawn to him.

The encounter breaks religious and social taboos, but Jesus casually engages the woman in conversation as if it’s the most natural thing in the world. He recognizes her as an individual with a life story and a context of her own. There is intimacy in this encounter. She is deeply affected by his openness and his teaching and becomes a crucial witness. Jesus uses the metaphor of the harvest to indicate his mission that included the Samaritans. The time for the harvest has come, he tells the disciples, and this woman represents that movement outwards. What is beautiful about today’s Gospel is the way Jesus goes about winning hearts: meeting this woman where she is, transcending boundaries, listening and allowing space for questions and debate. It’s a more gentle model for Lent than we might be used to.

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

“This woman is a partner first in conversation, then in mission. The story liberates women for discipleship. It should be read as one of the great missionary texts of the Church ... The woman does not wait for permission. She is the bearer of Good News and she will proclaim it.  
- Anne Thurston

**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, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Recent Deaths:** Hazel Gallagher, Dublin, mother of Emma Brown, Delacy Abbey  
Fr. Oliver Leavy and Fr. Colman Cooke, St Patrick’s Missionary Society, Kiltegan

#### **ANNIVERSARY MASSES**

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

Thomas & Bridget Cassells, Ricketstown

Anne Byrne, Knocklishen

Annie & Johnny Dempsey, Ricketstown

Jim Smith, London and formerly Coole

William Smith Coole

Pat Kirton – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

Nan Sibbald, Phelan Street

Margaret & Joe Raftery

Mona & Rita Abbey

Deceased members of the Sibbald Family

Tom & Julia O’Brien, Knocklishen and their son Joseph

Mick & Dan Abbott, Ballyoliver & deceased family members

Peter Carroll, Knocklishen & deceased family members

**Sat/Sun, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Paddy Doyle, Foxcover

Mary Ann Leonard, Rahill

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

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

Reader – Muireann Gartland.

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

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Breedh Murphy.

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

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

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

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

Talbotstown & Tynock NS – Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30 a.m. in Talbotstown Church.

#### **NOVENA TO ST PATRICK - 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March**

9 Day Novena in Honour of St. Patrick our National and Parish Patron. The Novena will be recited each day at Mass. Novena Leaflets are available in the Church.

#### **ST PATRICK’S DAY IN RATHVILLY**

Weather permitting the Parish will celebrate St Patrick’s Day in a special way.

People are invited to gather at St Patrick’s Well on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am where water will be collected. Prayers will be said at the well in honour of St Patrick.

We will then process to St Patrick’s Church for Mass at 11 a.m.

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

Double Issue next weekend, 14/15 March. Notices and Anniversary Masses to reach us by Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March.

## BAPTISED AND SENT IN LENT 2026

The Lenten programme continues on Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Rathvilly Parish meeting room. All are welcome.

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

## WEEKEND COLLECTIONS 28<sup>th</sup> Feb & 1<sup>st</sup> March

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €308.69                      Envelopes €578.00

Kiltegan: Offertory €67.40                        Envelopes €227.00

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

Results from 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 No Jackpot winner of €14,000

Numbers: 03-12-19-31. 17 Match 3 numbers get €59.00 each.

One local match three winner this week.

Winner – Letitia & Rena. Promoter – Post Office

Next draw on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March. **Jackpot €15,000.**

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

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</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.syond.ie](http://www.syond.ie)

† Get some holy water for your home and use it as you come and go to bless yourself

† Share with the hungry & set aside some of your weekly shop to donate to a food bank

† Do a Friday penance    † Be a happy presence in your home

† Find ways to conserve and reduce your use of water in the home. See [water.ie/conserve](http://water.ie/conserve)

## **Gospel Link: Who Belongs?**

This much loved Gospel is a pivotal reminder as we make our Lenten journey that Jesus is the source of our life. It is the first of three Gospels from John we listen to in Lent that draw on central symbols in baptism – in this instance the symbol of water.

In the encounter between Jesus and the woman we see God's mercy in action. The woman is an outsider, left to draw water at the hottest part of the day, alone. Jesus actively reaches out to her, ignoring the social norms of the time that would keep her in isolation. And in doing so the woman comes to know Jesus as the source of our life, as the living water that dwells within us, as our saviour. Not only that, she becomes a messenger of that Good News. In Jesus, all belong and all our renewed.

## POOR CLARE MONASTERY, GRAIGUECULLEN

Monastic Experience Afternoon. Ladies discerning a Religious vocation

A time to ask questions, a time for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

Exposed. Poor Clare Monastery, Graiguecullen, Carlow. Saturday 21st March from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## DAFFODIL DAY- Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March

Daffodils and Merchandise will be available in Centra and Rathvilly Pharmacy. Please support.

## 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.

## EASTER TRIDUUM RETREAT

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, arrival from 4pm, evening meal at 6pm, departing Sunday morning after Mass and Breakfast.

The Easter Triduum forms the heart of the liturgical year and we invite you to join as we pause to reflect and celebrate a moment in time on your unique journey.

For enquiries please contact Michéle Sinnott, [slianchroi@spms.ie](mailto:slianchroi@spms.ie) or telephone 089 – 4690508. Cost €390 per person.

## CLEANER AVAILABLE – MORNINGS ONLY Phone Kate 086 8671926

## 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

## RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 22-28-29-30

Match 3 win or share €150. 5 Lucky dips

Marie O'Connor

Annette Heydon The Rectory

Caoimhe Deering Ballybit

Ellen Cullen Knockavagh

Antoinette Kelly Fr. Cullen Tce.

Next draw 10 March 2026 **Jackpot €6,900**

On Line winner

On Line winner

On Line winner

Post Office

Paul Kelly

## SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto numbers drawn on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March were 2-11-14-24

Trish Harmon, Kiltegan

Fergal Harmon

Eireann Sibbald Nolan, Ballyoliver

Post Office

Mark and Elisha Ryan, Kiltegan

Fergal Harmon

Mary McCall, Rathvilly

Jenny Donegan

Tommy Kehoe, Rathvilly

Peg Kehoe

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Chrissie Deering, Patrickswell.

Next draw 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026. **Jackpot €4,900.** Thank you for all your support.

## 5KM RUN & WALK

Join us for the Rathvilly 5K Run & Walk in aid of Rathvilly NS Parents Association on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Rathvilly GAA Pitch starting at 10 a.m. Chipped timing, cash prizes & FREE Kids 1KM Run. Bespoke medal for the first 200 entries – don't miss out! Book early.