

## BIRR PARISH

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Parish Office Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Fr. Tom Hogan—057-9121757

Fr. Antony Sajeesh - 057-9121757

Fr. Pat Gilbert - 057-9121757

Fr. Kieran Blake, Kilcolman - 057-9120812

Fr. Michael O'Meara, Kinnitty - 057-9137021

### Feast of St. Brigid - Mary of the Gael

St. Brigid is one of the three patron saints of Ireland. Tradition tells us that Brigid was born some time around the year 454. Her youth, no different than that of other girls in her day, was spent in herding the family cattle, milking and making butter. Brigid felt a strong call to consecrate her life to God's service. At first her father refused her permission, but seeing her determination finally consented to her taking the veil. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from St. Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh.

As usually happens when someone gives powerful example Brigid became the centre of a numerous group of followers. This led her to found a double monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop Conleth.

Her life depicts her as an active nun, living with her community, though often travelling for either evangelical or charitable purposes, Hospitality, almsgiving and care for the sick were her main pre-occupations.

Though her monastery was very small in her lifetime, Brigid's reputation for genuine holiness earned her the title of Mary of the Gael. By the eighth century she was entitled leader of the virgins of Ireland. She died in 524 and her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland but in a number of European countries as well. We celebrate her feast day on 1st February.

### Psalm to Brigid

You were a girl of generous spirit.  
Brigid, give us generosity.  
You were a woman of courage.  
Brigid, give us courage.  
You were a nurse to the sick.  
Brigid, give us tenderness.  
You were a comfort to the aged.  
Brigid, give us loyalty.  
You were a leader of men and women.  
Brigid, give us energy  
You lit a fire that never quenched.  
Brigid, give us welcome.  
You built a church with finest oak.  
Brigid, give us prayer.

### Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 30th	7.30 p.m.	Eileen Cahill
Sun 31st	10.30 a.m.	Patrick & Eleanor O'Neill Patrick & Margaret O'Meara Daniel & Bridget Hogan, Mount Palmer
	12 noon	Thomas "Tucker" Pardy
Feb 1st	10.00 a.m.	Denis Carroll
Wed 3rd	10.00 a.m.	John & Agnes McNamara & sons Sean & Frank & daughter Margaret Fitzgerald (1st Ann)
Sat 6th	7.30 p.m.	Myra Wrafter (MM)
Sun 7th	10.30 a.m.	Michael & Betty O'Brien, Crinkill Sheila & Paddy O'Callaghan Gerry Hart
	12 noon	Ann & William Hough Barbara Bracken & Bracken family Billy Kirwan & his father Paddy Paddy & Agnes Sheils Rene Blackman Sean Kinirons

### Please pray for the souls of



Elizabeth Lally, Presentation Place,  
Donal Linehan, Cork,  
brother of Maura Wrafter, Burkes Hill,  
Pat O'Driscoll, O'Callaghan's Mills,  
brother of Sr. Anne, Sisters of Mercy,  
Willie Murphy, Shinrone,  
father of Ger Murphy, Crinkill,  
Sharon Regan, England,  
daughter of John Regan, formerly of High Street,  
Cox Leake, Belfast and late of Hollypark,  
Eileen Bergin, Kinnitty.

### St. Blaise - Feastday 3rd February

Saint Blaise is one of the powerful, popular saints that people invoke for good health especially to be free from sickness of the throat. He is depicted in art holding two candles or in a cave with wild animals where he was discovered at the time of his death.

*Through the intercession of St. Blaise  
Bishop and martyr,  
May we be freed from all sickness of the throat  
And from any other evil. Amen.*

### Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes

As we prepare for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Thursday 11th February, World Day of Prayer for the Sick, the Franciscan and Killaloe Diocesan Pilgrimage will host a Novena of Prayer that will be available on Ennis Parish's webcam: [www.ennisparish.com/webcam](http://www.ennisparish.com/webcam) on weekdays starting Wednesday 3rd February at 7.30 p.m., Saturday at 11.00 a.m. and on Sunday at 11.30 a.m. The Novena will be conducted by Bro. Damian Casey OFM, Franciscan Pilgrimage Director and Fr. Tom Ryan, Killaloe Pilgrimage Director.

### Still by FeliSpeaks

Still.

Covid came.

And Ireland stood still.

Shocked at how much could gather at our doorsteps  
— like dust.

We wrestled with what we might, What we may,

How life would continue, the ways it must.

Stood still.

The virus ate through limbs of every family tree,

It choked out lives we'd built roots around,

Rendered hearts bruised even persons forgotten,

Left us breathless. For dead.

Still.

We closed into ourselves.

We folded behind lock and key,

Inhaled through fogs of uncertainty,

We found fun in the walls of our homes,

Made it work, Fashioned it for play,

Carved out sections we can fill joy with,

So we can hold it firm on the days we didn't know

what we next, what could happen.

Still.

For those whom age

had known beyond a golden jubilee,

whose eyes glaze with film reel memories,

whose daughters have vowed

to love them in their sunset,

whose sons have kissed them in their sunrise.

We want your vision of us in full colour.

Stood still.

For the Frontline workers

armed with nothing but faith,

For the emerging minds that

must dare to dream in high definition,

For the lonely minds

that are glaring at love through a screen,

For the bodies that create homes

in cardboard shelters.

Still.

For you. Ireland is standing still.

But tomorrow, when our knees

get soft with impatience

and the gates of our homes swing open,

Which way will our legs go?

Which path does our heart know?

*Sponsored By*

**Birr Town  
Football Club**

### Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

#### Mí Feabhra.

Mí Feabhra, mí na Féile Bríde, mí na n-uan, mí an Charghais, mí na dTrí Shíon – báisteach, gaith agus sneachta. Tá laethanta gruama an Gheimhridh thart. Seo í tréimhse na bliana ina mbíonn borradh agus fás faoi na plandaí agus cheana féin, tá na plúiríní sneachta, na crócas agus lus an chromchinn os cionn talún.

#### *I mí Feabhra, bí linn a Thiarna agus go dtugaimis moladh agus glóir duit de shíor. Áiméan*

Is í intinn an Phápa don mhí seo ná :Guímis ar son na mban a d'fhulaing foréigean ,go dtuga an tsochaí co-saint dóibh agus go gcuire siad san áireamh an méid atá fulaingthe acu agus go dtuga siad ard air.

Amárach Lá Fhéile Bríde, lá speisialta ar fud na hÉireann. Tá cáil ar Naomh Bríd mar gheall ar a féile, a carthanacht agus a cúram do na heasláin. Ba mhaith lena hathair cleamhnas a dhéanamh di ach theastaigh uaithe a maighdeanas a choisreacan do Dhia. Mar a rinne Naomh Pádraig, bhain Bríd úsáid as an nádúr mórthimpeall uirthi le teagasc a thabhairt faoi Íosa. D'úsáid sí brobh luachra le cros a dhéanamh, agus tá an nós seo againn in Éirinn go dtí an lá atá inniu ann. Feictear na crosa i dtithe ar fud an domhain.

Is é seo a leanas an phaidir a deirtear ag beannú na gcros

#### *Go raibh beannacht an Athar, an Mhic agus an Spioraid Naoimh ar na crosa seo, ar na háiteanna ina bhfuil siad agus ar gach duine a fhéachann orthu.*

February, St Brigid's month, the beginning of Spring, month of the lambs, month of three kinds of weather: rain wind and snow . The gloomy days of Winter are over. This is the time of year when the plants thrive and grow and already the snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are above ground.

#### *Lord, be with us during the month of February and may we praise and glorify you forever. Amen*

The Pope's intention for this month is: We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

The feast of Saint Bridget is celebrated tomorrow. A special day in Ireland. Saint Bridget was famous for her hospitality, charity, and care of the sick. Her father wanted her to marry but she wanted to consecrate her life to God. Like Saint Patrick, Bridget used nature to teach about Jesus. She made a cross from rushes and this custom has prevailed in Ireland. St. Brigid's crosses are to be seen in houses throughout the world. This prayer can be said to Saint Bridget.

*May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless these crosses, the places where they are kept and everyone who sees them and praises Him. Amen*