

Some Resources as you celebrate St Brigids Day

St Brigid is one of the patron saints of Ireland. Her name is a byword for Irish (Celtic) spirituality, for service to the poor and for care for all of creation.

The picture on the right is of St Brigid with lepers, and is from a mosaic in the Cathedral in Armagh. Brigid has close associations with the diocese of Kildare & Leighlin.



IRISH CATHOLIC
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE
COMHDHÁIL EASPAG CAITLICEACH ÉIREANN

Did you know that the logo of the Irish Bishops Conference has St Brigids Cross at its heart?

More details available [HERE](#)

St Brigids Cross

The story is told that, one night, Brigid went to sit with a dying man. He was a chieftain, and members of his household hoped Brigid would speak to him of Christ, and perhaps convert him before he died. However the man was very ill and couldn't listen to such talk. So Brigid prayed for him instead. As she sat by his bedside, she picked up some of the rushes scattered on the floor. (This was typical of the time, rushes were warm and kept the floor clean). She began to weave rushes into a Cross, and as she did the Chieftain asked her about it. She wove and spoke of Jesus and prayed for the Chieftain. He came to know Christ that night, was baptised and died in peace.



St Brigids Crosses are traditionally made by Irish people around her feast day. Many homes place them over a door lintel or in the thatch of a house. A simple diagram showing how to make a Brigids Cross is available [HERE](#). [THIS](#) website suggests drinking straws as an alternative if you can't find rushes, but I'm sure any florist or local farmer will be able to help you in your search for rushes!

What can we learn from this story? What does Brigids life teach us?

- That faithful prayer and action can convert a heart faster than long words?
- That being present, and remaining present, with those in need allows healing to happen?
- That God works through all things, even rushes!

*The Cross of St Brigid is a sign of simplicity and of faithful presence.
May we be generous with our time, our presence and our love this year .*

St Brigids Cloak

St Brigid was a leader. Many women had gathered with her to learn, to pray and to serve the poor and sick. So she needed a place to live. Brigid went to the local king and asked for land for a convent (an Abbey). They went outside and stood on a high point looking across his many fields. The King asked her how much land she required, and she replied 'Just the land my cloak will cover'. He smiled and swiftly agreed to this, thinking it was an easy bargain. However, he soon stopped smiling when Brigid handed her cloak to four of her sisters. To his amazement, the ladies began to run and



run, and the cloak stretched and stretched and grew, so that it covered a huge area. When a large plot of land was covered, the sisters stopped. In wonder and awe the King agreed to give Brigid the land covered by her cloak, and so the community now had a place to live and grow.

What can we learn from this story? What is God teaching us through Brigid's life?

- To dream big dreams with God and to risk being stretched even further than seems possible?
- To create space for God's work, even where it seems like no time or space is available?
- To enjoy God's sense of humour and generous love day by day!?

*The cloak of Brigid is a reminder of God's generous love,
and of all that is possible when we let God stretch us, expand us!*

*May we trust God's generous love this year,
and be open to creating space and time for service and love
... even when that seems impossible to busy mortals like ourselves!
For nothing is impossible to God!!(Lk 1:37)*

A prayer from St Brigid

This prayer is a stunning earthy vision of Brigid's spirituality. It has been put to music, and several variations of it are available.

Lyrics to Saint Brigid's Prayer

I'd like to give a lake of beer to God.
I'd love the Heavenly
Host to be tipling there
For all eternity.

I'd love the men of Heaven to live with me,
To dance and sing.
If they wanted, I'd put at their disposal
Vats of suffering.

White cups of love I'd give them,
With a heart and a half;
Sweet pitchers of mercy I'd offer
To every man.

I'd make Heaven a cheerful spot,
Because the happy heart is true.
I'd make the men contented for their own sake
I'd like Jesus to love me too.

I'd like the people of heaven to gather
From all the parishes around,
I'd give a special welcome to the women,
The three Marys of great renown.

I'd sit with the men, the women of God
There by the lake of beer
We'd be drinking good health forever
and every drop would be a prayer.



*Image: 'St Brigid's Lake of Beer', by
Michael O'Niell McGrath. For more or to
purchase this image, click [HERE](#)*