

# St Brigid

Born in 454, twenty years after the arrival of St Patrick. Her father was a pagan chieftain. She spent her youth herding and miking cattle and making butter. She was very beautiful and popular. She refused to marry as she wished to consecrate herself to God's service.

Her father refused her permission to become a nun but later consented seeing her determination. Others followed her way of life. She built many convents. She was an active nun. Her generosity knew no bounds. She travelled long distances to do good. Hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick were her main concerns, living a life of basic Christianity. Although she herself did not live a cloistered life, she may be regarded by many as the pioneer of monastic life for Irish women.

Her reputation for genuine holiness earned her the title "Mary of the Gael".

## Reflection Space

A focus space could be created by using some cloths of different colours symbolising the cloak of St. Brigid ... into the space you could place some of the St. Brigid's crosses, made of rushes; the Book of Gospels; an icon or statue of St. Brigid

## Blessing of Crosses

Father of all creation and Lord of Light,  
You have given us life and entrusted your creation to us to use it and to care for it.  
We ask you to bless these crosses + made of rushes in memory of St. Brigid. Bless also the place where they stand and on everyone who looks at them.

She used the cross to recall  
and to teach your Son's life, death and resurrection.  
May these crosses be a sign of our sharing  
in the Paschal mystery of your Son,  
and a sign of your protection of our lives, our land and its creatures,  
through St. Brigid's intercession, during the coming year and always.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **Prayer of the Faithful**

**Priest:** We place our needs and the needs of the church  
before our loving Father who continues to care for us, His chosen people.

- 1) For the Church, that it may remain close to Christ and reflect Him to our world today. *Lord hear us.*
- 2) For the Christian spirit of generosity and concern for the underprivileged which inspired St. Brigid..... *Lord hear us.*
- 3) For a deeper faith for ourselves and our families..... *Lord hear us.*
- 4) For a greater awareness and respect for our environment..... *Lord hear us.*
- 5) For our faithful departed, that they may enjoy the happiness and the peace of the Father's Kingdom. *Lord hear us.*

**Priest:** Loving Father, hear our prayers  
and grant our requests through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Communion Litany**

**Response:** *We have broken bread together, the living bread from heaven.*

Lord, you have brought us together to remember. R/

Lord, you have brought us together to be reconciled R/

Lord, you have brought us together to listen R/

Lord, you have brought us together to give thanks R/

Lord, you have brought us together to make peace R/

Lord, you have brought us together to be renewed R/

Lord, you have brought us together to share R/

Lord, you have brought us together to build community R/

Lord, let us go out together to spread the good news R/