

Parish Office

The Parish Office is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am-12.30pm.
Tel: 01 8438421. E-mail: luskparish@eircom.net or visit www.luskparish.ie
Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to do any of the following:
Make an appointment to meet with Fr. Hampson. Get Baptismal Certificates.
Book Baptisms or Anniversary, Weddings and Funeral Masses.
Buy Mass Cards, Baptismal Candles or other religious gifts.
First Holy Communion prayer books, rosary beads & cards available.

Priests in our Parish

Parish Priest: **Fr. Paul Hampson**, Chapel Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 8949229.
Very Reverend Canon John Fitzgibbon, Chapel Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin.

It is requested that visitors do not arrive at Fr. Hampson's or Canon Fitzgibbon's houses unannounced, particularly late at night. Please make an appointment through the parish office Tel: 01 8438421, or in the case of an emergency please telephone the priest to advise that you are on your way to see him.

Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Lusk Parish Pastoral Council.

Parish Pastoral Worker

Mary Kirk is the Parish Pastoral Worker for **Skerries, Rush, Lusk & Donabate**
Tel: 087 3667645 or email mary.kirk@dublindiocese.ie

Parish Cluster & Diocese information

Lusk parish is grouped together with **Donabate, Rush** and **Skerries**.

For further information please visit the following websites: www.donabateparish.ie
www.rushparish.dublindiocese.ie www.skerries.dublindiocese.ie or www.luskparish.ie
For information on other parishes in our diocese please see www.dublindiocese.ie

Lusk Parish Newsletter Publication

If you would like to receive the Parish newsletter weekly by e-mail, please e-mail to lusknewsletter@gmail.com. For inclusion of items in the Newsletter, please e-mail lusknewsletter@gmail.com by 12 noon on the Wednesday of week of publication.

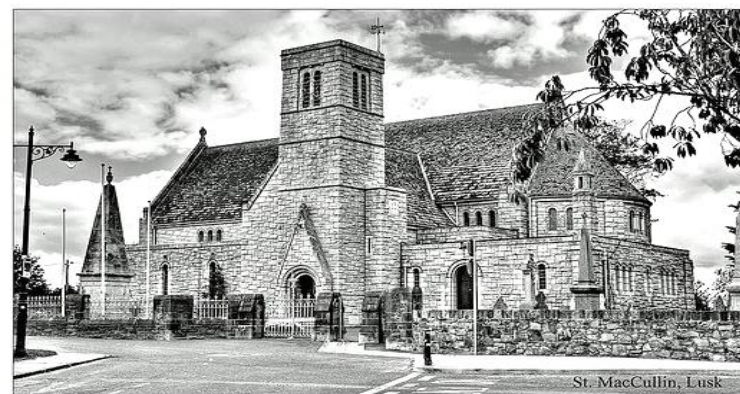
The Parish Pastoral Council reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Hyperlinks: To link to a website or email in this newsletter, access the newsletter on www.luskparish.ie and click on the underlined text.

Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Procedures

St. MacCullin's Parish accepts Safeguarding children standards and guidance documents for the Catholic Church in Ireland, Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Procedures see www.cps.dublindiocese.ie

The Parish of St. MacCullin



Newsletter Vol. 6 No. 6 – 8th February, 2015

Dates for Your Diary

Sun 15th Feb. **"Blessing of Engaged couples and their rings"**
After 10:00am Mass.

Sunday 15th February **"Do This In Memory"** 11:30am Mass.

Wednesday 18th February, **Ash Wednesday**

Sunday 8th March, **"Do This In Memory"** 11:30am Mass.

Sunday 15th March **Meet your Neighbour** Day after 11.30am Mass, Parish Hall

Tuesday 17th March **St. Patrick's Day**

Sunday 29th March, **Palm Sunday "Do This In Memory"** 11:30am Mass.

Friday 3rd April **Good Friday**

Sunday 5th April **Easter Sunday**

Sunday 19th April, **"Do This In Memory"** 11:30am Mass.

23rd. April, Lusk N.S. **Confirmation** 11:00am

24th April, Corduff, Educate Together & Hedgestown **Confirmation** 11:00am

9th. May Corduff, Educate Together & Hedgestown **First Holy Communion** 11am

16th. May, Lusk N.S. **First Holy Communion** 10:00am and 12:00pm

Readings for Sunday 15th. February.

Leviticus 13: 1 - 2, 44 - 46. 1 Corinthians 10: 31 - 11: 1. Mark 1: 40 - 45

Parish Calendar of Services, Mass Intentions and Feast Days

Saturday 7 th	St. Mel , a bishop, is believed to have come to Ireland with St. Patrick , died in 488. He is one of the earliest Irish saints. He gave the religious veil to St. Brigid .
9.00am Mass:	
Rosary after 9:00am Mass & at 5.30pm.	Confessions at 10.30am or by appointment
7.30pm Mass:	William & Maud Moore
Sunday 8 th	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time and St. Jerome Emiliani , patron of orphans.
8.30am Mass:	
10.00am Mass:	Angela & Thomas Dormer
11.30am Mass:	Betty O'Reilly, Joseph Gerard
Rosary at 5.30pm.	
Monday 9 th	St. Miguel Febres Cordero , 1854 - 1910, De la Salle brother and Ecuador's first canonised saint.
9.00am Mass:	
Rosary after 9:00am Mass & at 5.30pm.	
Miraculous Medal Novena Exposition & Benediction: 8pm	
Tuesday 10 th	St. Scholastica , 480 - 543, sister of St. Benedict, patron of convulsive children.
9.00am Mass:	Michael Kennedy
Rosary after 9:00am Mass & at 5.30pm.	
Wednesday 11 th	Our Lady of Lourdes first appeared to Bernadette Soubirous on this day in 1858
	St. Gobnait spent main part of her life in Baile Mhuirne, West Cork, where there has always been a deep devotion to her and which is a place of pilgrimage to her.
9.00am Mass:	
Rosary after 9:00am Mass & at 5.30pm.	
Thursday 12 th	St. Meletius , died in 381, Bishop of Antioch.
9.00am Mass:	
Rosary after 9:00am Mass & at 5.30pm.	
Friday 13 th	St. Modhomhog founded a church in Bremore, near Balbriggan
9.00am Mass:	Charlie Boyle, Leonita Valdez (Birthday Remembrance)
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.30am – 12.00pm.	Rosary after 9:00am Mass & at 5.30pm.
Saturday 14 th	St. Cyril , 826 - 869, St. Methodius , 815 - 885. St. Valentine .
9.00am Mass:	Ellen Mc Guinness
Rosary after 9:00am Mass & at 5.30pm.	Confessions at 10.30am or by appointment
7.30pm Mass:	May & Laurence Hagan

Skerries Citizen Information Centre: The water charge information packs have now been sent. If you have any queries or would like help completing the application form for your circumstances call into your local office for assistance. We are open Monday to Friday 9.30-4.30pm and closed 1-2 for lunch. Tel: 076 1077500.

Rush/Lusk/Skerries Bible Group The inter-parish Bible group will now meet **fortnightly** in Rush church next meeting **Thurs 19th Feb at 10.00am**. The programme of study and prayer this year will commence with the Gospel of Luke. All welcome. Contact Mary 0873667645.

ORLAGH CENTRE EVENTS:

Wednesday, Feb 11 | 10.00am - 1.00pm | €15, €25 (with lunch)

'COME AWAY AND REST AWHILE' With Bernadette Toal & John Byrne

A morning of stillness and mindfulness in tranquil surroundings for those who need a break in a busy life. Option of lunch at the end of the morning.

Saturday, Feb 14 | 10.00am - 4.30pm | €50

DAY FOR YOURSELF "Is féidir linn". We can.... if we choose. With Bernadette Toal & John Byrne

Around this theme you will be invited to listen, reflect, chat and pray (option of Mass at 4.30).

Friday, Feb 20 5.30pm - Sun, Feb 22 5.00pm | for cost details please call 086 362 5000

GESTALT NLP WORKSHOP With Imelda Buckley (limited to 10 places)

A powerful residential weekend focusing on how we can enhance the relationships in our lives through our communication with others. For further details contact: Imelda@imeldabuckley.me | 086 362 5000

EVERY WEEK	Wednesday	8.00 - 8.30pm	MEDITATION
	Sunday	10.00 - 10.20am	MEDITATION (Centering Prayer)
	Sunday	10.30am	LECTIO DIVINA MASS

BOOKING Tel: 495 8190 **Email:** info@orlagh.ie **Website:** www.orlagh.ie

Runners wanted! VHI Women's Mini Marathon 1st June, 2015

CRY: Cardiac Risk in the Young, CRYP Centre, Adelaide & Meath Hospital Tallaght, Dublin 24. Phone 01 452 5482 Email info@cry.ie

CRY's mission is to:

- Raise awareness for sudden cardiac death
- Provide a free counselling service to families and friends affected by SADS
- Continue fundraising and support for the CRYP Centre

The Annual Collection of ACCORD, The Diocesan Agency for Marriages and the Family, will be made at all masses on the weekend of 14th / 15th February. The Collection for ACCORD will replace the usual Share Collection. Please Give Generously.

ACCORD Dublin throughout the Diocese offers:

Marriage Preparation Courses

Counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships

A Relationship and Sexuality Programme in Schools

Diocesan Prayer Book: The Dublin Diocesan World Day of the Sick Committee has published an updated version of their very popular prayer book - 'I Am with You' (Psalm 90). For those experiencing suffering and illness, and for those caring for the sick. Of use for the sick and carers, and for personal prayer. More information on World Day of the Sick 2015 at www.dublindiocese.ie or on the Catholic Bishops website.

Up-Coming Workshops and Lectures at Emmaus, Swords.

INVITATION our Open Day on Sunday 8th February 2015 2.00pm - 5.00pm

During the event we will be showcasing everything Emmaus has to offer in 2015. There will be taster sessions available for you to enjoy from some of our most popular facilitators and we will be serving light refreshments. All welcome.

Please R.S.V.P. to emmauscentre@emmauscentre.ie by 7th February 2015.

Tai Chi Morning Classes Starting 11th February 2015 (Eight Wednesday Mornings)

10.30am - 12.00 Noon Fee - €80

Ennis Lane, Lissenhall, Swords, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01-870 0050, Fax: 01-840 8248,

Email: emmauscentre@emmauscentre.ie or visit www.emmauscentre.ie

Anam Cara is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Wednesday 18th of February from 19:30 to 21:30 in Applewood Community Centre, Swords, Co. Dublin. The guest speaker for the evening is Peter Hanlon and the topic is "A Parents Grief & Loss". All Anam Cara Services are available free of charge to bereaved parents. Anam Cara will need to confirm numbers for room set up, we would appreciate if you could RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Tuesday, 17th February 2015 or call us 01 4045378.

School of the Word with Fr. Kieran O'Mahony, OSA. Module 3 of Scripture evenings with Fr. O'Mahony in the **Parish Centre** at **8pm**. There will be Thursday evening talks on the Second Reading at Mass, mainly the Letters of St. Paul. See www.tarsus.ie for more information. Dates are **12th Feb, 19th Feb, 26th Feb, 5th March** and **12th March**. All welcome. Contact **Mary 0873667645**

Black Raven School of Piping and drumming Cake Sale will be held in the Parish Centre Lusk on Sunday 15th February after the 10.00am & 11.30am Masses. This is an important fund raising event for us to continue our work in teaching our young students. We now have agreement for Lusk & Corduff National schools to teach piping and drumming. This is an important part of our long term development plan, so funding is a vital.

Mass of Healing and Anointing of the Sick: Archbishop Martin will celebrate Mass of the Sick in St. Canice's Church, Finglas Village, on Sunday 8th February at 3.00pm. For further information or to arrange travel for those wishing to attend, please contact the parish office on: 01 8343110 Or Email: www.stcanicesfinglas.com

St. Brigid's Celebrations. The celebrations in the parish hall and Church on Friday 30th were a huge success and a great night was had by all. A huge thanks to everyone that helped especially Aileen in Fingal County Council and Colm who did all the hard work of cutting them. Thanks to Kylie who also brought rushes with her on the night.

Blessing of Engaged Couples.

A short blessing of engaged couples will take place after the 10am mass on Sunday 15th February, St. Valentines weekend. Please contact the parish office with your names.

The Family Mass Group: Altar Servers: Any young person from age 6 upwards interested in becoming an altar server, starting at the 11.30am Family Mass, please fill in below and return to parish office, or give names to Family Mass group after 11.30am Mass as soon as possible. Parents or Grandparents would be required to supervise the training and the preparation on a rota basis.

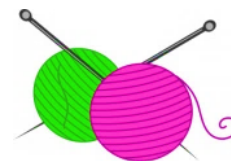
Child's Name: _____

Parent/Grandparent's Name: _____

Contact number: _____

Families Wanted: Any Families wishing to volunteer for one Sunday during Lent at the 11.30am Family Mass to do the Prayers of the Faithful and Offertory Gifts, please give your names after 11.30am Mass, or any time to parish office.

Meet your Neighbour Day Sunday 15th March after 11.30am Mass, in Parish Hall. Everyone welcome to make new friends, meet your fellow parishioners, an excellent opportunity for new members to the parish to meet and make friends. We will also make available a list of local activities and groups within the parish. Refreshments will be provided and some activities for children too.



Preparation for Easter. Calling all households/families to pick up your knitting needles again this year for a new project!! Those willing and able: please knit a 4 inch square in any stitch you like, but only in one of the following colours: red, yellow, orange and or blue. Our hope is that as many households as possible could contribute a 'square' to make an Easter Banner for behind the altar. No pattern required just an individual square, which will later be sewn together to form the banner. Any Master Knitters willing to help with final stitching please give details to the parish office.

A silent one day retreat for men and women will be held on Sunday 15th Feb in Milltown Park, 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Spiritual Talks, Rosary, Benediction, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass & Blessing of the Sick. Spiritual Direction by the Jesuit Fathers. Contact John Callaghan 8370778 or 5577113 email layretreatassociation@gmail.com

Spring Series of Public Talks

Reading the Signs of the Times: Urgent Questions for the Church Today

Each talk will be followed by a brief discussion with time for comments, questions and discussion.

The Synod on the Family: What can we expect?

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, DD, Wednesday 4th March, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin represented the Irish bishops at the Third Extraordinary General Assembly of Bishops which took place at the Vatican in October 2014, to discuss the topic: The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelisation. Pope Francis has determined that the work of this Synod of Bishops is to take place in two stages, forming a single organic unity, concluding in October 2015. This talk will address some of the issues being considered by the Synod.

Women in the Church: Is this the Elephant in the Room?

Prof. Mary T. Malone. Wednesday 11th March 2015, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Women have an unbroken tradition in Christianity. In this talk we will see how this rich illuminating tradition of women's theology, mysticism and prayer, still vibrantly ongoing, now stands ready to take its necessary and vital place in reinvigorating and renewing the self-perception of the Church in this time of crisis.

'A Poor Church for the Poor': What is our Call / Response?

Fr. Peter McVerry, SJ. Wednesday 18th March, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

'Salvation comes to us from the poor.' What does this frequently quoted phrase mean? Who are 'the poor' who bring us salvation? Does Pope Francis' 'A Church of the Poor for the Poor' challenge our understanding of God and the traditional spirituality we have inherited?

Faith, Ecology and Climate Change: The Challenge for the Church? Br.

Anthony Mark McDonnell, CFC Wednesday 25th March, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

This lecture offers an introduction to the New Cosmology as revealed by modern Tradition in the light of this new knowledge. Finally, the lecture will focus briefly on Climate Change in the context of a Christian understanding of creation.

Venue: Woodlock Hall, All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Admission: €10 per talk or €30 for all four talks. Pay at the door.

Pre-booking is recommended.

Booking: Eileen Houlahan

Director, Pathways Programme Email: ehoulahan@allhallows.ie T: 01 8520742

Woman's Guided Silent Retreat Preached by Fr Fergal Ó Dúill LC

26th February – 1st March, 7.30pm Thursday evening until 3pm Sunday.

At the Ballyvaloo Retreat Centre, Blackwater, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford. Cost: €255

Men's Guided Silent Retreat Preached by Fr Fergal Ó Dúill LC

23rd – 26th April, 7.30pm Thursday evening until 3pm Sunday.

Held at the Orlagh Retreat Centre, Old Court Road, Dublin 16. Cost: €195

Theme is "As the Father loves me so I also love you. Remain in my love" (John 15, 9)

To book a place, or for more information, contact the Faith and Family Centre, Tel. 01 2889317; email: faithandfamilycentre@arcol.org

Dublin Daffodil Centres are looking for a great bunch of Volunteers!



Irish Cancer Society

Daffodil Centre

The Irish Cancer Society's Daffodil Centres in hospitals across Ireland provide information, support and advice to cancer patients, their families, and anyone concerned about cancer.

Our Centres in Dublin are currently recruiting new volunteers to add to their team, to support the Daffodil Centre Nurse by welcoming visitors and showing them the range of information available, including our new centre in St. Luke's Hospital Rathgar.

More information: Catherine McGuinness on 2316635 or cmcguinness@irishcancer.ie

Closing date for receipt of applications is Sunday 1st March 2015

Icon Course New course taking place from 23rd to 28th February in the Carmelite Monastery, Delgany, Co Wicklow. Beginners welcome - No experience necessary. Contact: Mihai Cucu, Iconographer. Tel: 0863692037, email mihaicucu78@gmail.com

St. Meletius, died in 381, Bishop of Antioch when the Church was in the throes of the Arian heresy. When it became clear that he didn't support Arianism, he was forced into exile. Later restored, he preside at the Council of Constantinople in 381.

St. Modhomhnog, possibly from the line of the Ui Neill clan of Ulster. He went to study with St. David at his monastery in Wales. He was noted for his skills in cultivating gardens in the monastery & his interest in beekeeping. He returned to Ireland it is reputed he founded a church near Balbriggan, also associated with St. Molaga.

Holy Land Pilgrimage 2015: Arklow group of Parishes are organising a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 9th-17th October Fr. Martin Canon Cosgrove will be the Spiritual Director during the tour: Cost is €1,335 per person sharing (special early booking). For further information from the parish office: 0402-31716 or Email: office@arklowparish.ie

Year for Consecrated Life 2015 Come and pray on each Thursday at 6.15pm, in Clarendon Street Church, a special celebration of Evening Prayer.

St. Valentine <http://www.catholicireland.net/saintoftheday/st-valentine>



Relics of St. Valentine are venerated in the Carmelite Church in Whitefriar St. in Dublin. The history given is that in 1835 Fr John Spratt, the then Prior of the Carmelite Church in Whitefriar St. Dublin, on a visit to Rome received the relics of St. Valentine, martyr from Pope Gregory XVI (1835) and installed them in his church, where they became an object of great devotion. The website of the Irish Carmelites tells this story about Saint Valentine which give some indication why this devotion developed.

Why St Valentine is patron of lovers

The first story locates the story of Valentine's patronage of lovers in a tradition of ancient Rome. 14th February was a holiday to honour Juno – the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia, an early form of Carnivale or Mardi Gras.

Although in ancient Rome the lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate, one of the customs associated with the eve of the festival of Lupercalia was name drawing: the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man would draw a girl's name from the jar and they would then be partners for the duration of the festival. Sometimes the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often, they would fall in love and would later marry.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II (268-270 AD), Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular military campaigns. Claudius was having a difficult time getting soldiers to go to the army. He believed the reason was that Roman men did not want to leave their loves or their families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. But Valentine was a priest who would secretly marry any couples who came to him. For this he was taken captive and brought before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. He suffered martyrdom on the 14th February, in either 269 or 270.

Up-Coming Events at Sanctuary

For up-coming events at The Sanctuary, Stanhope Street, Dublin 7, Tel: 01 670 5419

Email: enquiries@sanctuary.ie or see www.sanctuary.ie

Supporting the Suicide Bereaved. A workshop aimed at those working with the bereaved within your parish e.g. clergy, support groups, and funeral support teams. 9.15 am to 4.15 pm, Thursday 19th February. Participants will gain knowledge and information on the many aspects of suicide and an understanding of how they may affect our work in supporting the suicide bereaved. The Irish Hospice Foundation, Bereavement Education & Resource Centre, Morrison Chambers, 4th Floor, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2. Fee €100 (1-day workshop) includes light lunch/tea and coffee.

St. Mary's Haddington Road. The Patrick Finn Lectures have become a significant and successful part of our parish activities and this year's lectures have been particularly well received. We continue the series when we receive John Horgan on Thursday February 19th. Professor Horgan is well known for his contributions to public debate in Ireland. On Thursday April 16th we will have the Most Reverend Richard Clarke, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. Admission to the lectures is free and they are followed by refreshment where the debates can continue. All Welcome.

Bethany Bereavement Support is presently recruiting new volunteers - ongoing training and support is provided. We are a voluntary parish-based ministry and our objective is to support the bereaved through the grieving process. Our services are free of charge and confidential. Our next training workshop will take place in Clonliffe College on Tuesday 24th February. For further information please see www.bethany.ie

Lusk Athletic Club held its AGM on Wednesday 28th January with new committee being elected. Last call for club registration is Tuesday 10th February. The Fit4Life group are making great progress nearly 1/3 of the program completed in the coldest and wettest conditions. Training on Tues at 7pm and Thur 7:30pm from Lusk NS. We were delighted to hand over more than €500 to St Vincent de Paul as a result of our St Stephen's Day run. Well done all.

Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality 426, Clontarf Road, Dollymount Dublin 3.
Expressing the Creative Spirit Tue 10 Feb, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Movies that Matter Made in Dagenham Wed 11 Feb, 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
An Oasis in Lent, 9:30 am to 6:00 pm Saturday 21 February. See www.manresa.ie

The next evening of guided meditation and prayer will be offered from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm on Ash Wednesday, 18 February 2015.

St Brigid's life from <http://www.catholicireland.net/saintoftheday/st-brigid/>



Brigid receives ordination as a bishop. Brigid went, along with other virgins, to Telcha Midhe, to receive a nun's veil from Bishop Mel. It happened that through the bounty of the Holy Spirit, the rite of ordination of a bishop was read over Brigid. MacCaille, another bishop, said that it was not right to confer the status of a bishop on a woman. Bishop Mel replied: "We have no power over it, because it is from God himself that this honour came to her – an honour beyond that of any other woman." For this reason, Brigid and her successors (coarba) were always regarded as having the honour due to a bishop.

Victory over the Uí Néill for the king of Leinster Brigid made two requests of Dunlaing, king of Leinster, and promised him the kingdom of heaven for himself and his son as a reward. The king, however, took little notice of this promise. 'I can't see the kingdom of heaven,' he said, 'and nobody knows anything about it. For that reason, I don't bother about it at all. As for granting the kingdom to my son, I don't bother about that either, for I myself won't be around. But give me a long life in my kingdom and give me victory over the Uí Néill in battle, and above all make me win the first battle against them to give me courage for those to follow.' This was granted, and the king won a great victory over the Uí Néill in the battle of Lochar.

Eights in Brigid's life. It was on the eighth day of the moon that Brigid was born; she took the veil on the eighteenth day; she went to heaven on the twenty-eighth day; she was consecrated along with eight virgins and she lived her life in accordance with the eight Beatitudes.

Abundance and healing at Easter. With one sack of malt, Brigid succeeded in providing beer for the seven churches of Tulach for Holy Thursday and the eight days of Easter. On one occasion, Brigid went to a church in Teathbha for the celebration of Easter. On Holy Thursday she washed the feet of the people in the church. Among them were four who were very ill. Brigid cured all four of them.

Curing the sick & setting prisoners free. Once Brigid asked a king to set a certain prisoner free. The king refused her request but he handed over the custody of the prisoner to her for one night. Brigid appeared to him and she instructed him to recite the hymn *Nunc populus* when the chain which bound him was loosed. He was then to turn to his right-hand and run as fast as he could. He did this and escaped from prison. One day when Brigid was travelling in Maigh Laighean (the Plain of Leinster) she met a student and he was running. 'Where are you rushing to?' Brigid asked him. 'I'm going to heaven,' he answered. Brigid recited the Our Father with him. He was Ninnid Lamh-Idan who when Brigid was about to die gave her Holy Communion.

Bishop Ibar helps Brigid mark out Cill Dara. Brigid asked to Bishop Ibar to mark out her city for her. They arrived at the place where Cill Dara now stands. It happened, just then, that Ailill MacDunlainge was going through Cill Dara with a hundred horse-loads of wooden posts. Two of Brigid's women came and asked Ailill to give them some of the posts. Ailill refused. With that, the horses were glued to the ground and were unable to move. Ailill was forced to give Brigid all the posts and it was with these that she marked the boundary of her monastery in Cill Dara. As a reward, she said that Ailill's heirs would have the sovereignty of Leinster for ever.

Brigid and the lepers. On one occasion, Brigid gave a cow to each of two lepers. One of them was a proud man and began to insult her. As they were crossing the Barrow, the river rose up against him and he drowned. The humble leper and his cow managed to cross in safety.

Generosity. The Queen of Leinster came to Brigid and gave her a silver chain as an offering. Brigid gave the chain to her nuns and they hid it away without telling her, as she was always giving away things to the poor. A leper came along and Brigid gave him the silver chain. The nuns were furious when they heard that the chain was gone. "Your mercy to everybody is of little use to us," they complained, "while we ourselves are in need of food and clothes." "You are a bad lot," said Brigid. "Go to the church, to the place where I pray, and you will find your chain." They did so and there was the chain even though she had given it to the leper.

Brigid and St Brendan, Brendan heard of Brigid's miracles and he came to talk to her. Brigid came in from herding her sheep to welcome him. She took off her cloak and hung it on a sunbeam coming in the window. It hung there as if suspended from a crook. Brendan told his servant to hang up his own cloak in the same way but it fell down twice. Brendan's anger rose and he hung up the cloak on the sunbeam for the third time and this time he was successful. After this, each of them confessed the state of their souls to each other. "It is not usual for me," said Brendan, "to travel over seven ridges without my mind being directed to God." "From the time I first directed my mind on God," said Brigid, "I have never taken it away from him."



Her death. After Brigid had founded many monasteries and performed many miracles, she came to the end of her holy life. Generous, patient, humble and forgiving, she was always joyful and steadfast in the service of God.

The source for this adaptation of the Life of Brigid from the *Leabhar Breac* is Seán Ó Duinn OSB's *Foreward* to his book *The Rites of Brigid: Goddess and Saint* published in 2005 by The Columba Press. To purchase that book online go to www.columba.ie

For Hymns, Prayers, Poems in honour of Saint Brigid please see <http://www.brigidine.org.au/reflection/reflection.cfm?loadref=56>