

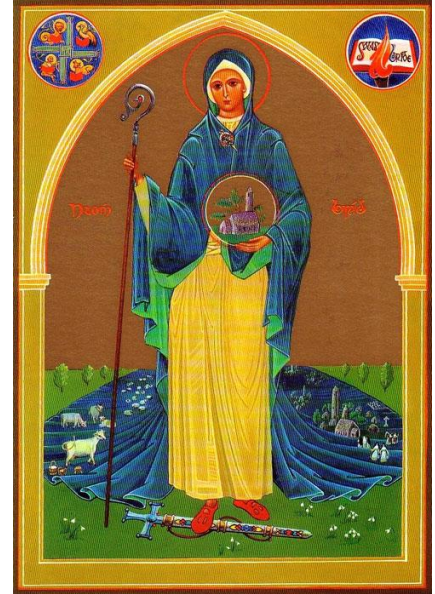
## Celebration of St. Brigid

**Song: The Deer's Cry**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z\\_gsq4fd8Rg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_gsq4fd8Rg)

### **Introduction**

*Brigid of Kildare is considered the patroness of Ireland. In a time of resurgence of interest in Celtic heritage, history and culture, St. Brigid emerges as a figure whose life holds deep relevance and inspiration for all who care for Earth, who have a passion for justice and equality and who promote peace and harmony among people and within nature. These attributes align beautifully with the priorities of Pope Francis and with all who seek to build a better world for all. Brigid stands at the intersection of history and legend, and our Celtic heritage has many stories about the great breadth of her influence, stories which speak to our imagination and our hearts. Let us celebrate the life and the legacy of this great Woman of God, our spiritual ancestor.*



*Icon by Aloysius McVeigh rsm*

### **Reading:**

*Probably the most beloved of Celtic saints is Brigid of Kildare. She is the saint who loves the earth, who reveals the sacredness of the feminine, who models female leadership, inspires poets and musicians, midwives new beginnings and extravagantly embodies compassion and boundless generosity towards the poor and those who seek refuge ... She combines the Druidic love of Earth with Christianity's awareness of Heaven. She points to a sacredness that is within as well as beyond us, that is embodied in Earth but is not bound by form, a sacredness that is beneath our feet, yet higher than the heavens.*

*John Philip Newell*

*Take some time to reflect on the qualities Newell attributes to St. Brigid ...*

- *How do you see Brigid as an icon for our day?*
- *How do these attributes relate to the commitments we made at our 22<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter?*

**Prayer to St. Brigid:**



*You were a woman of peace  
You brought harmony where there was conflict  
You brought light to the darkness  
You brought hope to the downcast.*

*May the mantle of your peace cover those who are  
troubled and anxious  
and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in  
our world.*

*Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has  
made*

*Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the  
weary... strengthen what is weak in us  
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens  
May we grow each day into greater wholeness  
in mind, body and spirit. Amen*

**Blessing:**

*May God our Creator enfold us, surround us, embrace us ... **AMEN**  
May Jesus be in our thinking, our seeing, our relating ... **AMEN**  
May the Spirit be in our hoping, our daring, our acting ... **AMEN**  
May we recognize our own sacredness and the sacredness  
of all that is ... **AMEN***