

## Celebrating St. Brigid of Ireland

### Sing a Song to Brigid

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h\\_56a3YG3qQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_56a3YG3qQ)

Our Newfoundland Irish history and culture have brought to us the veneration of Irish saints. St. Patrick, St. Brigid and St. Columba are the three well known and celebrated saints in Ireland. That tradition has been carried across the ocean to us by our ancestors. Some of the church buildings in Newfoundland have stained glass windows of these saints.

The communities of St. Bride's and Kilbride bear the name of St. Brigid. Our own St. Bride's College and St. Bride's Convent were named in her honor and placed under her patronage. Many of our sisters were baptized or received a version of the saint's name.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century more attention has been given to St. Brigid, possibly in response to a greater focus on feminine spirituality, ecology and social justice.

Brigid is supposed to have died February 1, 524. On the 1500th anniversary of her death Ireland is celebrating! Last year February 1 was declared a public holiday.

On January 28 this year a relic of St Brigid was returned to St. Brigid's Parish Church, in Kildare town after 1,000 years.

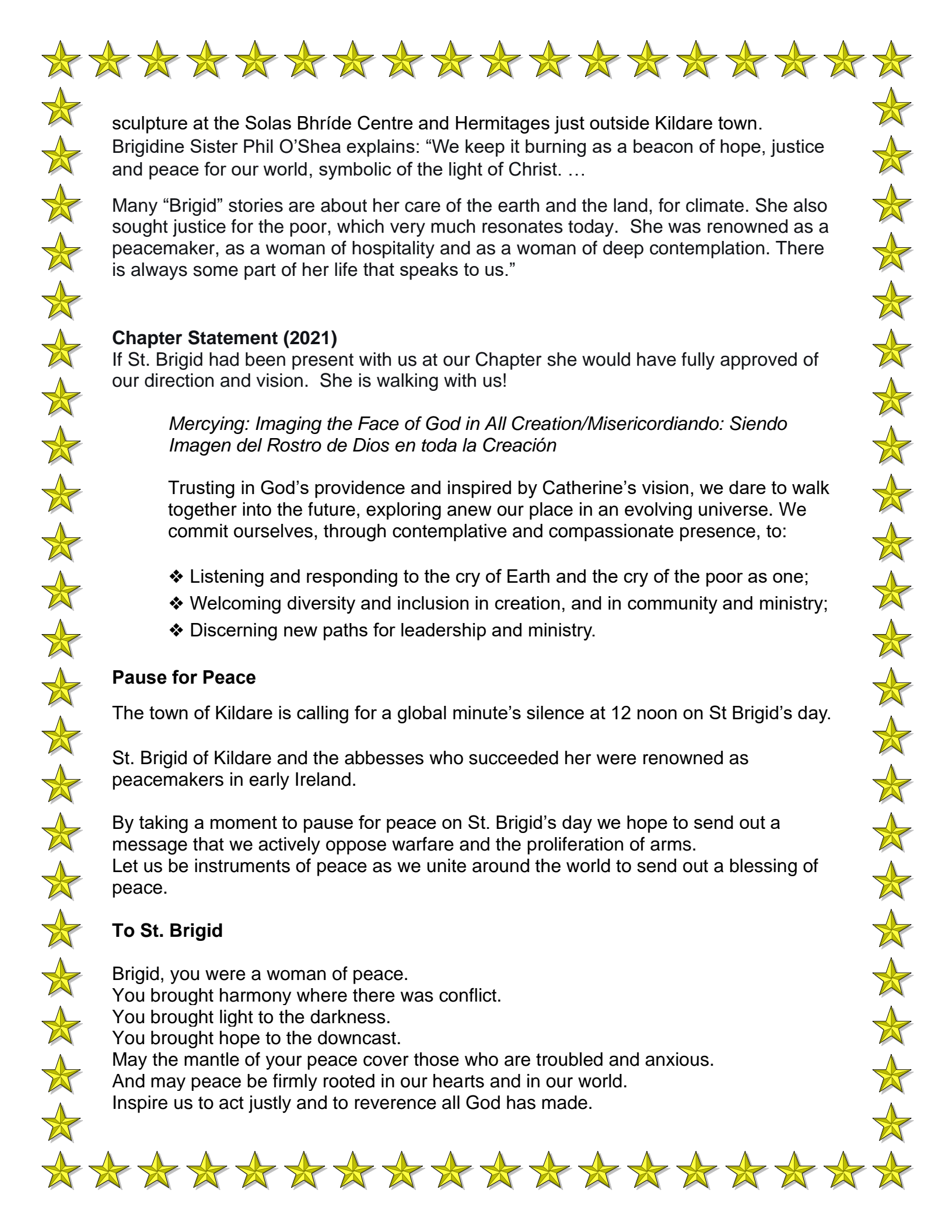


St Brigid - A Woman, A Life, A Legacy



**Relic being carried by three Brigidine Sisters; relic set in silver image of an Oak tree**

While the history and traditions of St. Brigid are many and varied there are some aspects that speak to us and to our world today. We are invited today to reflect on the life of St. Brigid as a woman of peace and justice, of women's empowerment and of light. The Brigidine Sisters care for a gentle flame burning in a beautiful bog oak



sculpture at the Solas Bhríde Centre and Hermitages just outside Kildare town. Brigidine Sister Phil O'Shea explains: "We keep it burning as a beacon of hope, justice and peace for our world, symbolic of the light of Christ. ...

Many "Brigid" stories are about her care of the earth and the land, for climate. She also sought justice for the poor, which very much resonates today. She was renowned as a peacemaker, as a woman of hospitality and as a woman of deep contemplation. There is always some part of her life that speaks to us."

### **Chapter Statement (2021)**

If St. Brigid had been present with us at our Chapter she would have fully approved of our direction and vision. She is walking with us!

*Mercying: Imaging the Face of God in All Creation/Misericordiando: Siendo Imagen del Rostro de Dios en toda la Creación*

Trusting in God's providence and inspired by Catherine's vision, we dare to walk together into the future, exploring anew our place in an evolving universe. We commit ourselves, through contemplative and compassionate presence, to:

- ❖ Listening and responding to the cry of Earth and the cry of the poor as one;
- ❖ Welcoming diversity and inclusion in creation, and in community and ministry;
- ❖ Discerning new paths for leadership and ministry.

### **Pause for Peace**

The town of Kildare is calling for a global minute's silence at 12 noon on St Brigid's day.

St. Brigid of Kildare and the abbesses who succeeded her were renowned as peacemakers in early Ireland.

By taking a moment to pause for peace on St. Brigid's day we hope to send out a message that we actively oppose warfare and the proliferation of arms. Let us be instruments of peace as we unite around the world to send out a blessing of peace.

### **To St. Brigid**

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 within 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

Today and always, may we: Look upon each person with the eyes of Christ. Speak to each person with the words of Christ and love each person in the strength of Christ. In Love's name, the Three-in-One. Amen.

