

# St. Brigid

Abbess of Kildare, circa 525  
1st February

## The Gathering of God's People

### THE GREETING

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

### SENTENCE

You are my strength Lord, I will love you; Under the shadow of your wings protect me.  
*The Prayers of Moucan, eighth century*

### INTRODUCTION

Brigid was a contemporary of St Patrick and founded a religious community at Kildare. More than that, it is almost impossible to say with any sure historical basis. Her spirituality had an enormous impact on the church in Ireland in the period of growth and transition immediately following the time of St Patrick. At that time the church in Ireland developed through spiritual communities of monks and nuns. Her pre-eminence in this led to her being regarded as a second patron saint. Her reputation for holiness spread rapidly to Scotland and Northumbria in the sixth century.

The lack of any writings by Brigid or any contemporary means that much that is written about her includes pagan elements, for there was a pre-Christian Celtic pagan mother-goddess who had a similar name. Later Christian hagiography found it difficult to disentangle truth from legend. What we can be sure of is that Brigid was a remarkable person and, through the grace of God, gave unique leadership in her own troubled times. The roll-call of the saints of the Celtic church in Ireland is so male-dominated that the honoured place given to Brigid of Kildare is itself a testimony to her leadership qualities.

### OPENING PRAYER

Kindle in our hearts, O God,  
the flame of love that never ceases,  
that it may burn in us, giving light to others.  
May we shine for ever in your temple,  
set on fire with your eternal light,  
even your Son Jesus Christ,  
our saviour and redeemer. **Amen.**     *St Columba*

PENITENCE

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You are loving to all,  
and your mercy is over all your creation;  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy**

Your faithful servants bless your name  
and speak of the glory of your kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**Glorify to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord, God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

COLLECT

Father,  
by the leadership of your blessed servant Brigid  
you strengthened the Church in this land:  
As we give you thanks for her life of devoted service,  
inspire us with new life and light,  
and give us perseverance to serve you all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

### THE FIRST READING

*Hosea 6: 1-4*

Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn, that he may heal us; he has stricken and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his going forth is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth. What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### THE PSALM

*Psalm 134*

**Come, bless the Lord,  
all you servants of the Lord.**

Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary  
and bless the Lord.

The Lord who made heaven and earth  
give you blessing out of Zion. 🕯

### THE SECOND READING

*1 John 1: 1-4*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us - that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### THE GRADUAL

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God. Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St John, chapter 10, beginning at verse 7.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

We pray for the diocese of Kildare, We pray for a recovery of the spiritual dimension in everyday life and for those who devote themselves to developing a spirituality for the twenty-first century. We pray for a wider acknowledgement of the role of women in the ministry of the church, giving thanks for those who serve as readers, and in the threefold ministry of deacons, priests and bishops in the Church of Ireland.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE**

Peace be to you, and peace to your house,  
and peace to all who are yours. *1 Samuel 25: 6*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Celebrating at the Lord's Table

### THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Wise and gracious God,  
you spread a table before us;  
nourish your people with the word of life,  
and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

### *The priest takes the bread and cup*

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

### THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

#### *Eucharistic Prayer 3*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, Lord of all creation,  
we praise you for your goodness and your love.  
When we turned away you did not reject us.  
You came to meet us in your Son,  
welcomed us as your children  
and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.  
He opened wide his arms upon the cross  
and, with love stronger than death,  
he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Lord Jesus Christ our redeemer,  
on the night before you died  
you came to table with your friends.  
Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it  
and gave it to them saying,  
Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you:  
you are the bread of life.**

At the end of supper  
you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said,  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you:  
you are the true vine.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life,  
come upon us now;  
may this bread and wine be to us  
the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us, who know our need of grace,  
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity:  
with your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise  
and lift our voice to join the song of heaven,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words  
**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,**

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not into temptation**

but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

now and for ever. Amen.

*or*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**Our Father, who art in heaven**

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation,**

but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory**

for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

They recognized the Lord, Alleluia;

**in the breaking of the loaf, Alleluia;**

For the loaf that we break is the body

of our Lord Jesus Christ, Alleluia;

**The cup which we bless is the blood**

of our Lord Jesus Christ, Alleluia

**for the remission of our sins. Alleluia;**

O Lord, let your mercy come upon us, Alleluia;  
**in you O Lord have I put my trust. Alleluia.**

They recognized the Lord, Alleluia;  
**in the breaking of the loaf, Alleluia.**

*Lk 24:35 1 Cor 10:16-17; Mt 26:28 Ps 31:1 Stowe (9th c)*

### AGNUS DEI

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us**  
**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

*or*

**Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,**  
**Jesus Christ is Lord,**  
**to the glory of God the Father.**

### THE COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

### THE GREAT SILENCE

## Going out as God's People

### PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

God of truth,  
whose Wisdom set her table and invited us to  
eat the bread and drink the wine of the kingdom.  
Help us to lay aside all foolishness  
and to live and walk in the way of insight,  
that we may come in fellowship with Brigid  
to the eternal feast of heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the spiritual food  
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

DISMISSAL  
*The Blessing*

Salvation is of the Lord,  
Salvation is of Christ.  
May your blessing, Lord,  
be upon your people,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**