

# Feast of Saint Brigid

*Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009 ~ Kildare & Leighlin Diocese*

## INTRODUCTION

Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Brigid, patron of our diocese. We also celebrate the end of the first **Catholic Schools Week** in this country.

Brigid was one of the first people to bring the light of faith to Kildare and the surrounding countryside. She was a woman who gave witness to her faith by her welcome, generosity and care for all with whom she came in contact. Our Catholic schools continue that tradition today. They are places of welcome, hospitality and inclusivity where the light of faith burns brightly and our children are helped to understand what it means to be people of faith.

We give thanks, during this Mass, for the faith and inspiration of St. Brigid and for all the people in our Catholic schools who are beacons of light and faith in our world today.

## OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God,  
origin and reward of all charity,  
you called Saint Brigid to teach the new commandment of love  
through her life of hospitality and her care of the needy;  
give to your people, by her intercession,  
a generous spirit, so that, with hearts made pure,  
we may show your love to all.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*(Readings to be taken from 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time)*

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

(P) We now bring our prayers to God, whose care of all creation has been shown to us in the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

Through the power of Jesus, we pray that all the students of our Catholic Schools will be enabled to develop their full potential as human beings made in the image and likeness of God and become people who experience life in all its fullness.

**Lord Hear Us**

St. Brigid was always generous to those who were in need. May we follow her example in how we respond to the needs of others.

**Lord hear us**

We pray with gratitude, for all the teachers in our Catholic Schools. May they, in their work, continue to combine the authority and compassion of Jesus.

**Lord Hear Us**

We give thanks for all those who, like St. Brigid, exercise a ministry of healing- in home or hospital, in our parish and in our society.

**Lord Hear Us**

We pray that each person - married, single, widowed or celibate - may give themselves to the affairs of God by the way they live their lives.

**Lord Hear Us**

We pray for those who have died. May the Lord lead them by the hand to the place of perfect peace.

**Lord Hear Us**

(P) Father, we pray to you through the presence of the risen Jesus who frees us from all evil and oppression, hear us and grant us what we ask in his name. **Amen**

## **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

As we present these gifts, O Lord,  
on the feast of Saint Brigid,  
may we come to know you as the source of all true love.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **PREFACE**

**V/. The Lord be with you.**

**R/. And also with you.**

**V/. Lift up your hearts**

**R/. We lift them up to the Lord.**

**V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God**

**R/. It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and external God,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For your wonderful love is seen in Saint Brigid:  
you taught her to open her heart and hands to the poor  
and to seek the image of your son in every welcomed guest.

Through her you showed a people  
the way of Mary, the Mother of your Son,  
in dedicated service and holiness of life.

On this feast you fill our hearts with joy  
for you continue to bless the Church  
that you planted by her labours.  
And so, with archangels and angels  
And the whole company of Saints,  
We sing the unending hymn of your praise:

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

You give us food from heaven, Lord,  
To strengthen us in love;  
grant we prayer, through the intercession of Saint Brigid,  
that works of charity continue to flourish  
and the light of true faith not fail.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **SOLEMN BLESSING**

May God, who in Saint Brigid has provided  
an outstanding example of generosity:  
make your ears be ever open to the cry of the poor.  
**R/. Amen.**

May you who greet Saint Brigid as Mary of the Gael  
receive from the Jesus, Son of Mary  
the reward promised to the pure of heart.  
**R/. Amen.**

May God fill you with his love,  
as you honour Saint Brigid,  
whose heart and mind became  
a throne of rest for the Holy Spirit.  
**R/. Amen.**

And May the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain for ever.  
**R/. Amen.**

