

Cill Aodáin

Anois teacht an earraigh
beidh an lá ag dul chun síneadh,
Is tar éis na Féile Bríde
ardóidh mé mo sheol.

Ó chuir mé im' cheann é
ní stopfaidh mé choíche
Go seasfaidh mé síos
i lár Chontae Mhaigh Eo.

I gClár Chlainne Mhuiris
A bheas mé an chéad oíche,
Is i mballa taobh thíos de
A thosós mé ag ól.

Go Coillte Mách rachad
Go ndéanfad cuairt mhíosa ann
I bhfogas dhá mhíle
Do Bhéal an Atha Mhóir

Translation:

Now with the coming of the
Spring
the day will be lengthening,
and after St. Bridget's Day
I will raise my sail.

Since I put it into my head
I will never stay put
until I will stand down
in the centre of County Mayo.

In Claremorris
I will be the first night,
and in Balla below it
I will begin to drink.

To Kiltimagh I will go
And I would make
a month's visit there
two miles close to Aghamore.

*by Antoine Ó Raifteirí (Anthony
Raftery 1779-1835)*

Prayer before Holy Communion

Lord Jesus, come to me.

Lord Jesus, give me your love.

Lord Jesus, come to me and give
me yourself.

Lord Jesus, friend of children,
come to me.

Lord Jesus, you are my Lord
and my God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer after Holy Communion

Lord Jesus, I love and adore you.
You're a special friend to me.

Welcome Lord Jesus, O welcome,
thank you for coming to me.

Thank you Lord Jesus, O thank
you, for giving yourself to me.

Make me strong to show your
love, wherever I may be.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you
to stay, close by me forever and
love me, I pray.

Bless all of us children, in your
loving care and bring us to
heaven, to live with you there.

I'm ready now, Lord Jesus, to
show how much I care.

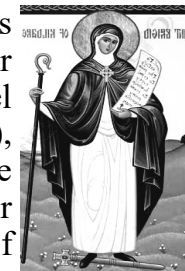
I'm ready now to give your love,
at home and everywhere. Amen

Parishes of St. Mary's, Dungarvan, An Rinn and Sean Phobal , Kilgobinet, Colligan and Kilbrien



Saturday, 1st February 2025: Feast of St. Brigid. St. Brigid's Icon is on display in St. Mary's Parish Church.

This icon in honour of St. Brigid shows some of the details from the legends about her. She was born in Faughart, near Dundalk, Co. Louth. She received the veil from St. Mel under the oak tree, which gives Kildare its name, (Cill Dara), the Church of the Oak. Her halo is of leaves. She wears the veil, symbol of her consecrated life. The snowdrops at her feet remind us that her Feast Day is February 1. As "Mary of the Gael" she is wearing blue, the colour associated with Our Lady. In her left hand she carries the staff, denoting her office as Abbess. And in her right hand she carries a little church representing the church she founded in Kildare. She died on 1st of February 524.



St. Brigid's Cross.



A St. Brigid's Cross would be hung in a house, or perhaps in a stable, to ensure the protection of the saint over the people of the house and the livestock.

But where did the St. Brigid's Cross come from? When Brigid was with a dying chieftain, she picked some rushes off the floor and began to weave a cross. When asked what she was doing, she explained the story of Jesus to him and the significance of the cross. She told him that there was no need to be afraid of death because Jesus loves us so much. After much explanation, the pagan chieftain was baptised and became a member of the Christian community. Each year, newly woven crosses are blessed with holy water with the words: 'May the Father, Son, Holy Spirit and St. Brigid bless this cross and all who look upon it.'

Pope Francis: Hope - A Strength to be Asked For.

Hope is a virtue, a strength which comes from God. It is not a habit or a character trait - that you either have or you don't - but a strength to be asked for. We ask for a gift. We start again on life's journey.

(Adapted from Pope Francis' Jubilee Audience, Saturday 11th January 2025)

Sharing Faith with our Young People – You Can Help. Parish Faith Representatives.

The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore is once again seeking people of faith in parishes who have a heart for young people to reach out to the young people in our parishes. Since the launch of the Strategic Plan for Youth & Adult Ministry in March 2023, 32 Parish Faith Representatives from 15 parishes across the diocese have been commissioned. The Faith Rep. role varies from parish to parish, according to the needs of the parish as well as the time and gifts each individual Faith Rep can give. They must be aged 18 or over. There is no upper age limit. Faith Reps are commissioned for two years with the option of staying on. Closing date for receipt of applications is 21 February 2025.

The role of a Parish Faith Representative is to:

- Become a link between parish, school & home, under the guidance and assistance of the diocese;
- Support clergy and post-primary school teachers;
- Circulate information regarding Youth & Young Adult events;
- Attend relevant Diocesan Faith Formation Conferences and workshops;
- Be part of the development of Youth & Young Adult ministry in the parish.

Are You Interested?

Speak to a priest of the parish.

More information on www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry

Information Sessions: 10th February 2025 in St. John's Pastoral Centre, John's Hill, Waterford X91 HW90.

17th February 2025 Zoom (email for zoom link)

Application Deadline: Friday, 21st February 2025.

What is the Jubilee Year?

The Jubilee Year in the Old Testament

The custom of the Jubilee Year began in Old Testament times. Every fiftieth year was celebrated as a Jubilee year. A ram's horn known as a yobel was blown to announce the year's beginning. The aim of the Jubilee year was to restore lost freedom. This was a response to two main situations: first, where land has been sold to pay debts, leaving the former owner in dire straits (land as family inheritance was vital for survival); second, where a person was sold into slavery to pay debts.

The laws of the Jubilee Year set out to put these situations right. They set out to prevent a situation developing where a family became landless and destitute. They also wanted to make sure that a permanent class of slaves did not develop. So, in the Jubilee Year people returned to their property and slaves were given their freedom. The cancelling of debts was part of the Jubilee obligations.

The Jubilee Year was a time to remember God as he who sets free, who grants liberty to all who are captive. It was what the prophet Isaiah calls a year of the Lord's favour.

A Pilgrim's Handbook Dublin Diocese Jubilee 2000 Committee PP 9-10

Jesus - The Fulfilment of the Jubilee

All Old Testament Jubilee years find their fulfilment in Jesus who through his words and deeds ushers in a year of the Lord's favour. Jesus proclaims good news to the poor, brings freedom to all who are captive, sets free the oppressed, gives new sight to the blind (cf. Mt 11:4-5). All of Jesus' activity is an expression of God's Favour. Through Jesus' death and resurrection in this liberation is offered in a definitive way and, through the holy spirit, that freedom is ongoing in the Christian community.

A Pilgrim's Handbook Dublin Diocese Jubilee 2000 Committee PP 9-10

1300 - The First Jubilee Year

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a "Holy Year," since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time; at first they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been "extraordinary" Holy Years; for example, in 1983. Pope St. John Paul II proclaimed a jubilee to celebrate the 1950th anniversary of the death and resurrection of Jesus, and in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy as an extraordinary Jubilee.

(from Vatican Homepage, Jubilee 2025)

A Prayer for Each Day.

Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last.

St. John Henry Newman