

February - Mí na Féile Bríde, The Feast of St Brigid

In our Christian tradition the feast of St Brigid on 1 February ushers in the springtime. It is a time of hope, of new life and rebirth. It is a good time to acknowledge God as the source of all life and to celebrate as a faith community the ways in which Brigid of Kildare challenges us in our time to be channels of hope, life, justice, peace, faith and healing in the lives of others around us. Parish Rituals, Eileen Deegan, Columba Press, 2005

Saint Brigid of Kildare, lived from 451 to 525 . She was a nun, abbess, founder of several convents and held the rank of bishop. She became known for her generosity - even as a child never refusing any poor people who came knocking at her father's door. Once having nothing else to hand, the story goes that she gave her father's precious sword to a beggar. In her life she brought peace where there was conflict, she acted justly and was a voice for the oppressed.

May Bridget inspire us to act justly and to reverence all that 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. (Solas Bhríde, Kildare 1997)

PRAYER

May the arms of God be about you,
The way of Christ guide you,
The strength of the Spirit support you,
And may Mary and Brigid be close to you always.

Justice Dates for February

- February 4th marks Afri's annual Féile Bríde, which this year celebrates Fire and Food. The celebration will take place in Derby House Hotel, Kildare Town. See www.afri.ie
- On February 15th DDCI launch their public report card on Ireland, The Global South and the International Financial Institutions. See www.debtireland.org