

## Mass Intentions this Week - online only.

We pray for those who died recently **Kitty Mc Manus**, Milltown mother of Anne Kitt, Pollnaroona; **Kitty Fitzgerald**, Canada sister of Frank Hayden, Ard na Mara; **Eva O'Mahony**, Ballinasloe sister of Nancy Lillis, Salthill and for all with Anniversaries, Birthday Remembrances etc. at this time of the year and all who have gone to God.

Sat 23rd	5:30pm	Mairead Mc Guire (2nd A); Rose & Michael John Silke (A) Michael Jordan (A) John Laheen 12th (A) Frank Mullan (B'day Remb) Thomás Coll (A); Tony O'Connor (Remb)	C.S.
Sun 24th	9.30am	Jim Fives (Months Mind)	G.J.
	11 am	John Geaney (3rd A) & wife Marie Sean & Rita Cullinan (A); Kevin Maher (A); Sr Catherine Friel (A) Michael & Rita Barrett (A) Patrick & Ellen Walsh & sons Padraic & Sean;	D.W.
	12.30pm	No Mass at this time during lockdown	.
	6pm	No Mass at this time during lockdown	.
Mon 25th	10 am	Debbie Jennings (A)	G.J.
Tues 26th	10m	Bridie Gill (A) Ejren Necessario (A) Patrick & Ann Hanberry (A)	G.J
Wed 27th	10 am	Una Faherty (A)	MSC
Thurs 28th	10 am	Christy Burke R.I.P.	C.S.
Fri 29th	10am	Private Intention	C.S.
Sat 30th	10am	Private Intention	C.S>

### Mass Intentions Next Weekend include:-

Sat 30th	5:30pm	Chris (1st A) and Anne Keating Teresa Holian (2nd A) Mai Croker (A) Tony O'Connor (Remb)
Sun 31st	9:30am	Private Intention
	11 am	Special Intention Lily Lanigan (A)

# PARISH NEWS

17th January 2021

*"CHRIST THE KING PARISH — A FAMILY OF FAMILIES"*



## Parish Notices

**No Public Masses** until end of January due to Covid restrictions.

**All our Masses are on-line** "[salthillparish.ie](http://salthillparish.ie) - live web cam" and we hope you will join us in prayer for Anniversaries/Special Intentions etc.

**Weekends** : Vigil Mass Saturdays at 5:30 and Sundays at 9:30 and 11a.m.

**Weekday Mass**: 10 am daily Mon-Sat.

**Church open** for private visits after Mass until dark each day. All Welcome.

**Parish Office** open as usual Mon-Fri) 9:30am to 4:30pm (lunch 1-2pm)



Next Weekend we honour the great tradition of St Brigid - "Muire na Gael".

We invite you to join us on Zoom from Croí Nua, Rosary Lane on Sunday 31st January at 7.30pm to learn more about St Bridget and to celebrate her feast day. You can get the link by contacting [croinuacentre@gmail.com](mailto:croinuacentre@gmail.com).

**Jesuit Centre - Sacred Listening**: a timely 4-part course on a way of listening to oneself & others. Begins 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Further info: [spiritualitywest@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualitywest@gmail.com) or ph. Sr Moira on 086 877 6537

**Poor Clares Galway**— Are you under 40 and wondering if Poor Clare life might be for you . Join us for a Q&A on Wednesday 27th from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. For more info contact [vocations@poorclares.ie](mailto:vocations@poorclares.ie)

Salthill Parish is committed to the protection of all children and young people in our Church.  
See notice boards for contact persons.



Dear Fellow Traveller

On February 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate the feast of St Brigid one of the three patron saints of Ireland. St Patrick's feast is celebrated as a national holiday, and my question is why is St Brigid's feast not celebrated in the same way? After all, she was together with St Patrick responsible for the spread of Christianity in Ireland in the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

She shares a name with a Celtic goddess Brigid (old Irish name was spelled Brigit) from whom many legends and folk customs are associated. It is widely believed her mother was Brocca, a Christian baptized by Saint Patrick, and her father was Dubthach, a Leinster chieftain. Brocca was a slave, therefore Brigid was born into slavery. Like St Patrick she came out of slavery and brought the good news of the freedom of children of God to our ancestors.

Many stories of Brigid's care and love of the poor and needy in her youth are told about her. One story says Brigid once gave her mother's entire store of butter, that was later replenished after Brigid prayed. When she was about ten-years-old, Brigid was returned to her father's home, as he was her legal master. Her charity continued, and she donated many of his possessions to anyone who asked. Eventually, her father became tired of her charitably nature and took her to the king of Leinster, with the intention of selling her. As he spoke to the king, Brigid gave his jewelled sword to a beggar so he could barter it for food for his family. When the king, who was a Christian, saw this, he recognized her heart and convinced Dubthach to grant her freedom by saying, "Her merit before God is greater than ours."

After being declared a "Free woman", Brigid returned to the Druid and her mother, who was in charge of the Druid's dairy. Brigid took over and often gave away milk, but the dairy prospered despite and the Druid eventually freed Brocca. Dubthach, had "arranged" a marriage for Brigid to a local Bard but she refused to marry him.. Legend has it Brigid prayed that her beauty be taken so no one would want to marry her, and the prayer was granted. It was not until after she made her final vows that her beauty was restored.

According to tradition, around 480 A.D. Brigid founded a monastery at Kildare (*Cill Dara*: "church of the oak"), on the site of a pagan shrine to the Celtic goddess Brigit, which was served by a group of young women who tended an eternal flame. Brigid and seven friends organized communal consecrated religious life for women in Ireland and she founded two monastic institutions, one for men and one for women. She invited Conleth a hermit from Old Connell near Newbridge, to help her in Kildare. I think that it is a great example of how the Celtic Christian Church developed. A community close to nature, and the Celtic spirituality of the consciousness of the presence of God all around.

In that Christian community there were no hierarchical structure, but rather out of the community there emerged the leader that had a deep faith and commitment to the ways of Christ. A spiritual person that had a great sense of love and care of the poor and vulnerable, Maybe today's church in Ireland should return to that way and allow woman and men to emerge and lead us in the ways of Christ like St Brigid and St Conleth did.

She later founded a school of art that included metalwork and illumination, which Conleth led as well. It was at this school that the Book of Kildare, which the Gerald of Wales praised as "the work of angelic, and not human skill," was beautifully illuminated, but was lost three centuries ago.

There is evidence that Brigid was a good friend of Saint Patrick, and that through Patrick and through her Christ performed many great works." Saint Brigid helped many people in her lifetime, and died of natural causes on February 1<sup>st</sup>. 525 AD. Saint Brigid's likeness is often depicted holding a reed cross, a crozier, or a lamp.

There are many stories about Bridget - my favourite is "The legend of Brigid's cloak". It's the story about the manner in which she came to acquire the land to build her monastery at Kildare. She approached the King of Leinster requesting the land on which to build her monastery. The place she selected in Kildare was ideal. The King refused her request. Brigid was not put off by his refusal. Rather, she and her sisters prayed that the King's heart would soften. She made her request again but this time she asked, "*Give me as much land as my cloak will cover.*" Seeing her small cloak, he laughed and then granted this request. However, Brigid had instructed her four helpers each to take a corner of the cloak and walk in opposite directions - north, south, east and west. As they did this the cloak began to grow and spread across the land. The King and his entire household were dismayed and amazed. They realised that this woman was truly blessed by God. The King became a patron of Brigid's monastery, assisting her with money, food and gifts. Later he converted to Christianity. It was on this land in Kildare that she built her dual monastery c.470.

This story is part of our great storying telling tradition, and we need to understand it as a story. What do they say? - "*All stories are true. And some of them even happened*" ! I think that it is the story of St Brigid coming to the King, and she spreads out her little cloak of Faith, Hope and Love, and with the help of her companions and God's presence that faith began to spread throughout the land. It covered the land and enrobed the community and the King and led to our island becoming the "Land of Saints and Scholars".

Have a safe week.

C.S.

**MASS TIMES**

**ON-LINE ONLY**

**WEEKENDS**

Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 9:30am, 11am,

**WEEKDAYS:**

Mon —Sat.: 10am.

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**The Parish Office;**

Hours: Mon-Fri: 9:30—1pm

2pm —4.30pm

Yvonne Thornton [Mon-Wed]

Rhona Bolger [Thurs-Fri]

Phone: (091) 523413

E-mail:

[Salthill@parishes.galwaydiocese.ie](mailto:Salthill@parishes.galwaydiocese.ie)

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**Parish Co-Ordinator:**

Frank Keane.

**Parish Sister:** Sr Breege Ruane

**Music Director:** Jackie Lillis.

**Priests of the Parish:**

Fr. Gerry Jennings 523 413

Fr Charlie Sweeney MSC

523413