



## Mass Times

### Monday-Friday

7.30am, 8.30am,  
10.15am, & 4pm

### SATURDAY

8.30am, 10.15am  
3pm Mass of the Sick

### SUNDAY

9.00am, 11.15am  
& 7.30pm

### CONFESSIONS

### MONDAY & FRIDAY

10.45am-12 Noon  
3.00pm-4.00pm

### SATURDAY

10.45am-12noon  
2.30pm-4pm

All Masses are  
'live streamed  
at St. Augustine's



### St. Augustine's Church Child Safeguarding Representatives.

Fr. Flor O'Callaghan O.S.A.  
Fr. John Lyng O.S.A.  
Ms Geraldine van Dam  
Mr. Robert Ryan  
Ms Charlotte Gleeson  
Mr. Tom Walsh



**St. Augustine's Church  
Limerick**  
**1st February 2026**  
**St. Brigid, Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland**  
website: [www.augustinianslimerick.com](http://www.augustinianslimerick.com)  
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# Brigid

The rain poured down on all the fields except the one where St Brigid's workers were harvesting her grain. A river was lifted overnight and given a different home to facilitate Brigid's relatives building a road. These and many such stories were taken, because she represented the deity, to vindicate Danny Healy-Rae's meteorological teaching that "God Himself is in charge of the weather and there's nothing anyone can do about it."

Cogitosus's Life of St Brigid, (mid 7th c.) has many such tales with biblical and legendary echoes: great tubs of bathwater turned into beer to slake the thirst of lepers; river-water parting to allow Brigid's stolen cows to come home with the rustlers impaled on their horns; a man who did the work of twelve and ate the rations of twelve having his appetite reduced without losing any of his capacity for labour; the family butter given to the poor only to be replaced by a miraculous mountain of the stuff to placate a demanding mother.

Liam de Paor, historian and Celtic Studies scholar, tells us that Cogitatus's opus, (the earliest Life of an Irish saint) gives us no reliable information about the founder of Kildare. It is, he says, a collection of wonder-tales about her miracles linked with short commentaries or "morals" explaining them as evidence of an extraordinary suspension of the laws of nature due to the power of God working through St Brigid.

But he goes on to say that "Brigid the church founder certainly existed. The nature and importance of Kildare for many centuries is proof of a major Episcopal church under female governance". Cogitatus, he adjudges, wrote with the aim of showing Kildare as the chief church/monastery of Ireland. Indeed, in the **Life** itself he wrote

*"The woman of whom I tell established a monastery on the open expanses of the plain of Life (North Kildare). It is the head of virtually all the Irish churches with jurisdiction over the whole land of Ireland from sea to sea."*

Whatever Brigid was, the influence of Brigid was enormous.

A certain cohort of people today, engaged in the noble activity of helping the police with their enquiries, would be familiar with Bride-wells in Cork, Dublin, Leeds, London and many other places. A church of St Bride has stood in London for 1500 years: thought named by a group of Celts in honour of St Brigid. Their water source was **St Bride's Well**. A thousand years later Henry V111 built a palace there. A hospital followed and soon a prison. This gaol became a model for others, called '**bride-wells**'. That's not Brigid's fault. The legacy would be remarkable in any age, a "cathedral city and school that became famous all over Europe". The name lives on not only in the Bridewells but in Bride St., the river Bride, many Kilbrides and Manorkilbride, Kilbreedy and a hundred other places from Argyll to Ontario. Brigid is spoken of in the same breath as St Patrick. Her cross, that strange symbol evocative of wheel-spokes or swastika, was the first emblem of RTE but doesn't seem to have survived whatever winds of enlightenment blew there in recent years. Brigid's feast-day, today, is the first day of the Irish Spring: We could do with her taking a hand in the weather again. *Anois teacht an Earraigh.*

J.L



## ST. BRIGID

Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Brigid, secondary patron of Ireland and woman of compassion. She is remembered for her hospitality, her generosity to the poor and her care for the sick. Her name is linked with the town of Kildare, the site of a large monastery founded by St. Brigid. A rich heritage of stories and traditions have grown up around her name including St. Brigid's crosses which were placed over the door in the different rooms and recognised as signs of protection from fire, from harm, and from hunger. Brigid died on 1st February 524 and is buried in Downpatrick, with the other two patrons of Ireland, Patrick and Columba (Colm Cille).



## Feast of St. Blaise - Blessing of the Throats

Tuesday **3rd February** is the Feast of St. Blaise linked with the flourishing tradition of the Blessing of Throats. You are invited to have your throats blessed at all Masses on Tuesday: 7.30am, 8.30am, 10.15pm & 4.00pm

The candles used for the blessing of throats are blessed on the previous day Monday 2nd, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord —Candlemas Day and you are invited to bring candles for this blessing.

Mass Times 10.15am & 4.00pm



## Monday 2nd February Public Holiday

**Masses: 10.15am & 4.00pm**

**No Confessions**



## World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. Let us give thanks for the many Sisters, Priests and Brothers in our diocese who continue to witness to Gospel values and live their lives in faithful service. May they be blessed.

### Marantha Retreat

Maranatha Healing  
Retreat on next Sunday  
8th February 2026  
at 2.30 pm at  
St Michael's Church,  
Denmark St. Limerick  
with Mass at 4.30 pm.  
All welcome.

### ST. BRIGID - A BLESSING

May your gentle blessing,  
O Brigid, rest on us.  
May your generosity open  
our hearts and hands.  
May the flame of your love  
warm our lives  
May the shelter of your  
cloak protect us.  
Amen

