

# Nenagh Parish

## News

1 February 2026

St Mary of the Rosary  
1896-2026

St John the Baptist  
1970-2026

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Fr Jofin Jose



## Happy St. Brigid's Day - Lá fheile Bríde

Saint Brigid of Kildare or Brigid of Ireland (c. 451 – 525) is the patroness saint (or 'mother saint') of Ireland, and one of its three national saints along with Patrick and Columba. The saint has the same name as the goddess Brigid, meaning 'exalted one' from Old Irish. There is debate over whether Brigid was a real person because of the legendary quality of the earliest accounts of her life, and among many secular scholars and Christians over the authenticity of her biographies. Three biographies agree that her mother was Brocca, a Christian Pict slave, who had been baptised by Saint Patrick. They name her father as Dubhthach, a chieftain of Leinster. Dáithí Ó hÓgáin and others suggest that the saint had been the chief druid at the temple of the goddess Brigid, and was responsible for converting it into a Christian monastery, and that after her death, the name and characteristics of the goddess became attached to the saint. Noel Kissane, author of the most comprehensive reference work on historical sources, argues she was a historical figure.

Brigid is known as a goddess of pre-Christian Ireland and appears in Irish mythology as a member of the Tuatha Dé Danann, the daughter of the Dagda and wife of Bres, with whom she had a son named Ruadán. Cormac's Glossary, written by Christian scribes in the ninth-century and based on earlier sources, describes her as a 'goddess of poets' and 'woman of wisdom' or sage, who is also famous for her 'protecting care'. The Lebor Gabála Érenn calls Brigid a poetess and says she had two oxen, Fea and Femen, from whom are named Mag Fea (the plain of the River Barrow) and Mag Femin (the plain of the River Suir). The animals were said to cry out whenever plundering was committed in Ireland, suggesting that Brigid was a guardian goddess of domesticated animals.

Legends of her early holiness include her vomiting when a druid tried to feed her, due to his impurity; and a white cow with red ears appeared to sustain her instead. As she grew older, Brigid was said to have performed miracles,

including healing and feeding the poor.

In Christianity, according to tradition, Brigid was born in the year 451AD in Faughart, near Dundalk in County Louth, Ireland. With an initial group of seven companions, she is credited with organising a communal consecrated religious life for women in Ireland. She founded two monastic institutions, one for men, and the other for women, and invited Conleth (Conláed), a hermit from Old Connell near Newbridge, to help her in Kildare as pastor of them. Around 480 she founded a monastery at Kildare on the site of a pagan shrine to the Celtic goddess Brigid. The site was under a large oak tree on the ridge of Drum Criadh.

She died at Kildare on 1 February 525. This date was originally a pagan festival (Imbolc) that marks the beginning of spring. It has been argued that the saint is a Christianization of the goddess; a form of syncretism. According to medievalist Pamela Berger, Christian 'monks took the ancient figure of the mother goddess and grafted her name and functions onto her Christian counterpart'. Now the 1st February is celebrated as St Brigid's Day in the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and by the Anglican Communion.

Brigid is celebrated for her generosity to the poor. In her case, most of the miracles associated with her relate to healing and household tasks usually attributed to women. Some include:

- She was reputed to turn water into beer.
- On an occasion when Brigid was travelling to see a doctor for a headache, she stayed at the house of a Leinster couple who had two mute daughters. A touch of Brigid's blood healed the girls of their muteness.
- One of the more commonly told stories is of Brigid asking the King of Leinster for land. She told the king that the place where she stood was the perfect spot for a convent. It was beside a forest where the members could collect firewood and berries, there was a lake nearby that would provide water and the land was fertile. The king laughed at her and refused to give her any land. Brigid prayed and asked God to soften the king's heart. Then she smiled at the king and said, 'Will you give me as much land as my cloak will cover?' The king thought that she was joking and agreed. She told four of her sisters to take up the cloak, but instead of laying it flat on the turf, each sister, with face turned to a different point of the compass, began to run swiftly, the cloth growing in all directions. The cloak began to cover many acres of land. She said, 'My cloak is about to cover your whole province to punish you for your stinginess to the poor'. The king replied, 'Call your maidens back. I will give you a decent plot of ground'. Soon afterward, the king became a Christian, began to help the poor, and commissioned the building of the convent.

### Medjugorje Afternoon Prayer

Daycare Centre on Tuesday 3 February at 4pm. All welcome! Note change of day.

### First Friday/First Saturday Vigil

Vigil for First Friday/First Saturday will take place in the Sacristy of St. Mary of the Rosary Church, Nenagh, commencing at 7.30pm on Friday 6 February. Holy Mass at 12 midnight. Vigil concludes at 2am. Adoration & Rosary. All welcome to attend all or part of the Vigil. (Entrance through Sacristy door of the Church).

### Mass Times

#### St Mary of the Rosary

##### Weekend Masses:

Saturday 10am | Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion  
 Saturday Vigil Mass | 6.15pm  
 Sunday 8am | 12 noon | 6pm

##### Weekday Masses

8am | 11am

**Adoration** | Weekdays 5-7pm  
**Confessions** | Sat after Liturgy

##### Parish Radio: 106.2FM

#### St John the Baptist, Tyone

Saturday | 7.30pm

Sunday | 10.30am  
 Polish Mass | 2nd & 4th Sunday  
 Each Month | 1pm

### Odhrán Pastoral Area

#### Mass Times

##### Friday

Portroe 7.30pm  
 Killeen 7.30pm

##### Saturday

Youghalarra 6.30pm  
 Puckane 7.30pm

##### Sunday

Templederry 7.00pm  
 (and Wednesdays at 7.00pm)

Silvermines 8.00pm

##### Sunday

Carrig 10.00am  
 Portroe 10.00am

Ballywilliam 11.15am

Curreeny 10.00am

Silvermines 11.00am

*This Week We Offer A Special Prayer For  
...the Feast of St Brigid*



Brigid

You were a woman of peace.

You brought harmony where there was conflict.

You brought light to the darkness.

You brought hope to the downcast.

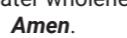
Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

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.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.



### Feast Days for the Week Ahead

1st St Brigid, Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland

2nd St Columban of Gibent

3rd St Blaise

4th St Loman of Trim

5th St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

7th St Mel, Bishop

God our Father, who in the springtime of the faith in Ireland raised up your servant Saint Mel to foster the growth of the Church, grant, we pray, that we who venerate his memory may never fail to imitate his tireless labour. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

### SVP Nenagh

We are looking to recruit new volunteers to join our home visitation conference, SVP, Nenagh. If you are interested we invite you to attend our open evening on Monday February 9 from 7-8 pm in the Pastoral Centre, Church Road. Alternatively you can leave your details in our post-box, SVP, Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh & a member will call you to discuss.

### Arra Historical and Archaeological Society and Ballycommon Craft Group

Invite You To

### Celebrate St Brigid's Day

Monday 2 February 2026

Burgess GAA Field (New Building), Kilcolman E45YHT6 (10am – 12:30pm)

The Ballycommon Crafters made a large 'St Brigid's Cloak', knitted, crocheted, embroidered and decorated to honour the Saint and all the women who have lived in Ireland since her time.

- Celebrate the day, see the cloak and enjoy some stories. Learn how to make a St Brigid's Cross
- There will be a short (ca 1 km) pilgrimage to the Holy Well for those who wish to walk there
- Refreshments will be served after the walk

### Healthy Food Made Easy – Community Cooking Class (Ballycommon)

Join Silver Arch Family Resource Centre for a Community Cooking Class in Ballycommon. This practical and friendly course will help you understand nutrition, plan balanced meals using the food pyramid, read food labels with confidence, and cook simple, tasty meals on a budget.

Classes run for 6 weeks on Thursdays, February 12, 19 and March 05, 12, 19, 26, at Muintir na Tire Hall, Ballycommon from 2-4 pm. Cost €10 for 6 weeks. All welcome – booking is essential call Catherine Power on 083-1629253 or Silver Arch 067-31800.

### Anniversaries | Sat 31 - Sun 8 February

#### St Mary of the Rosary

Peggy Roche (MM)

Noel Harrington (MM)

Ann McAuliffe (1st A)

Margaret Dunne (1st A)

Anne Hayden (1st A)

Jimmy Shanahan

Martin Hudner

Fintan McGee & his son Baby

Thomas & daughter Fiona

John Stapleton

Andy Whelan (1st A)

Michael Kevin (MM)

Sr. Maureen Frawley (MM)

Ann McNamara

Breda & Melvin Shuster

Michael Byrne

Liam McLoughlin

Derek Morrissey

Theresa O'Brien

Michael Morgan

James & Mary McGrath & deceased family members

Teresa Hayes

Mary Murphy

Lizzy & Tommy Treacy

Mary, John and Kathleen Mulroe

Bernadette Slattery

Ger Lewis, Michael Lewis & Jackie Lewis

Sean Bane & Anne Bane Kelly

John Hogan

James & Gerry Hogan

Rita, Joe & Joseph Fowley

Nora Talbot

Eileen McDonagh, husband Jim & son Bernard

Notie Scott, daughters Majella & Tracy, granddaughter Megan

Billy Morrissey

May Quigley (nee Sheedy)

Deceased members of Morgan family

### Our Faithful Departed

Ann Murphy

Sally McGuigan

Florrie O'Donoghue

**May They Rest In Peace. Amen**

### Readers | 7-8 February 2026

6.15pm

Mary McGrath

7.30pm

Eamonn Dillon

8am

Tess O'Kennedy

10.30am

Bridget White

12noon

Adrian McIntyre

6pm

Alice Darcy



How to Donate to Your Parish  
Scan the code to Donate.

### PARISH OFFICE NOTICE BOARD

**Weekly Collection** €3,451 Thank you for continued Support.  
**Office Opening Hours** Mon-Fri | 9am-5pm (4pm Fridays)