

**St. Brigid's Church Killeshandra**[churchtv.ie/killeshandra](http://churchtv.ie/killeshandra)**Sunday 29th** 11am Anniv. Tommy and Margaret Patterson Drumambry / John Fitzpatrick Portaliffe**Monday 30th** 7pm Month's Mem. Helen Fullen Laheen**Wednesday Feb. 1st 8am St. Brigid's Day****Thursday Feb. 2nd 7pm Candlemas Day / Presentation of Our Lord** also Eve of St. Blaise. Blessing of throats after Mass.**Sunday 5th** 11am Anniv. Patrick and Gretta O Reilly and dec. family Arva.

Candles for home use and for donation to the church are available in the Sacristy after Mass. Packet of 6 for €5.50. Single candle €1.00

**Offertory Jan. 22nd €910****Sacred Heart Church Arva****Sunday 29th** 10am Month's Mem. Colm Gormley Gartylough**Friday Feb. 3rd** 7pm St. Blaise. Blessing of throats after Mass**Sunday 5th** 10am Anniv. Michael and Ben Dobson Forthill**Offertory Jan. 22nd €578.90**

Readings for February will be left on Our Lady's Altar to be collected

We remember Fr. Vincent Brady Arva and Sacramento who died recently.

**Church of the Immaculate Conception Coronea****Saturday 28th** Vigil 7.30pm Month's Mem. Liam O Hanlon Drumcoghill**Wed. Feb. 1st 11am Mass for St. Brigid's Day** led by pupils of Coronea N.School Grandparents' Day all welcome.**Saturday Feb. 4th** 7.30pm Vigil . The Blessing of Throats will take place after Mass**Offertory Jan. 21st €445.80****Priests** Charlie O Gorman PP Killeshandra 087 4182324 or 049-4334179 [killeshandra@kilmorediocese.ie](mailto:killeshandra@kilmorediocese.ie) or [blcog54@gmail.com](mailto:blcog54@gmail.com)  
Fr. Oliver O Reilly CC Arva, Farnham Rd. Cavan 086 2368446 [milltown@kilmorediocese.ie](mailto:milltown@kilmorediocese.ie)**Cemetery Sunday 2023** Killeshandra Sunday July 30th 12 noon Old / 12.30 New. Coronea Sunday August 13th 12.30**Prayer to St. Bridget**

Bridget, 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. May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious. And may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world. Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made. Bridget, 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. Amen.

**The Story of Brigid**

Brigid was born at a time of major transition in 5th century Ireland. It is generally accepted that St Brigid built her double monastery for men and women in Kildare around 470AD. Some scholars credit Brigid with pioneering monastic life in Ireland. Her monastery was acclaimed as a centre of education, pilgrimage, worship and hospitality until the 16th century when all the monasteries were suppressed.

"From the plains of Kildare to the ends of the earth

**The life of St Brigid speaks."**

Irish missionaries and migrants carried her name and spirit across the world. Pilgrims and visitors come to Kildare from all over the world seeking to walk in Brigid's footsteps. In more recent years we have noticed a reclaiming of the traditions and customs associated with her. Why is this so? Brigid's legacy has endured. Her life still speaks to us in the 21st century.

**Woman of the Land**

Brigid is remembered through the ages as a woman of the land. Her feastday on the 1st February marks the first day of Spring in the northern hemisphere. It is the season when we celebrate new life on earth. In a new hymn, she is invoked "to heal our wounds and green our Earth again." Many today draw inspiration from the respect which Brigid and our ancestors had for all creation.

**Friend of the Poor**

Brigid had an extraordinary concern and compassion for the poor people of her time. Her legends challenge us share the goods of the earth with our brothers and sisters especially those who live in desperate poverty in the developing world.

**A Peacemaker**

Feuds between clans were commonplace in Brigid's day. She is often referred to as a peacemaker who intervened in disputes between rival factions and brought healing and reconciliation. Brigid is depicted in an icon in the parish church in Kildare with her foot on the sword. She challenges us to be peacemakers and peacekeepers.

**Model of Equality**

Brigid held a unique position in the early Irish church. Scholars tell us that she presided over the local church of Kildare and was head of a double monastery for men and women. She challenges both men and women today to create a church and a society where men and women are equally respected.

Brigid spread the values of Christ. Her life continues to sing the song of the Gospel. She continues to be remembered as an extraordinary woman of faith and to occupy an important place in the hearts of the people of Ireland and far beyond.

