

PARISH LINK FEBRUARY



Website <https://brayandenniskerry.com/>

In February we remember.....



1st St Kevins 9 am: Mia Opdebeeck (A) Edward Opdebeeck (A) Liam and Philip Quinn (A's)

St Patrick's 10am: Mary Burton (A)

St Mochonog's 10am: Nuala Murphy (A), Bridget Kearns (9th A)

St Mary's 11am: Baby Daniel Handy (10th A) Baby Rian Handy (5th A)

8th St Mary's 11am: Cormack Barry (MM) Annie Barry (A) Bridget Acres (A) Barry O'Sullivan (2ndA)

St Mochonog's 10am: Graham Blanchfield (1st A)

15th St Mary's 11am: Mary Tuite (A)

22nd St Mochonog's 10am: Margaret Draper (A) Robert(Bob) Draper (A)

St Mary's 11am: Ellen Nolan(A) Anne Moran(A) Joan Nolan (A) Mary Hunt(26'A)

Reminders.....

- The Living Room will next take place at 11am in St Mary's, Wednesday next 4th February
- Saints we celebrate this month St Brigid 1st, St Blaise 3rd, and St Valentine 14th
- Coffee and Connect will take place again in St Patrick's at the end of March. Watch this space!
- Pray for all those who are ill in our parish
- No Prayer service in St Mary's on Wednesday 11th February (Healing mass at 10am Kilmac)
- Ash Wednesday Mass 10;15 St Mary's 18th February

Kilmac

Wonderful work done in restoring and reinstating the original statue of Our Lady of Lourdes in Kilmac . Congratulations to all involved.



SAINT BRIGID



1. Courageous Leadership and Independence

Founder of Kildare: She established a major double monastery (for both men and women) in Kildare, which became a renowned center of learning, art, and spirituality. **Challenging Gender Roles:** Operating in a patriarchal society, she managed a vast network of convents and wielded significant influence, often operating with the authority of a bishop. **Strong-Willed:** She was resolute in her refusal to marry, choosing instead to dedicate her life to God, even reportedly causing herself disfigurement to avoid a forced marriage. **2. Extreme Charity and Compassion** Advocate for the Poor: She is legendary for her boundless generosity, often giving away her father's possessions—including a valuable sword—to those in need. **"Incapable of Refusing":** It was said she could not turn away anyone seeking help, often leading to miraculous replenishments of food and supplies. **Peacemaker:** She was recognized for mediating feuds, particularly among warring noble families, and for protecting vulnerable women. **3. Connection to Nature and Hospitality** "Mother of the Churches": She was known for her hospitality and for fostering a sense of community, ensuring her convent was a place of refuge. **Patron of the Land:** Often portrayed in the dairy, she had a deep connection to the land and animals, with many of her stories involving the protection of livestock. **Environmental Awareness:** Her life reflects modern concerns for the environment, emphasizing care for the earth. **4 Enduring Legacy and Cultural Impact** St. Brigid's Cross: She is associated with the tradition of weaving crosses from rushes to protect homes. **Symbol of Spring:** Her feast day, February 1st (La Fhéile Bhríde), marks the traditional beginning of spring in Ireland. **Patron of Many Trades:** She is the patron saint of dairy workers, poets, healers, midwives, and even brewers, reflecting her multi-faceted life.

Brigid is revered as a "powerhouse of activity" who combined deep faith with a practical, hands-on approach to solving the problems of her time.

HISTORY

Our next Talk is on February 9th, the second Monday of the month remembering the first Monday is a Bank Holiday. It will be at 8p.m in Kilmacanogue Parish Hall (Eircode A98 YD98).

Two very popular Talks we had last year were genealogy related- John Brazil's Talk on the DNA of People in Ireland and Sean J. Murphy's talk about Irish Surnames. This February's Talk is 'Surnames and DNA in Ireland.' Our Speaker John Brazil will look at what DNA can tell us about the five most common Irish surnames in Ireland (Murphy, Kelly, Walsh, O' Connor, and O'Sullivan) and also, briefly about a less common surname, Brazil - his own.' Promises to be a fascinating Talk.

Scripture quote of the month "Here I am, I have come to do your will." HEBREWS 10:9

Thought for the month "While it is February, one can taste the full joys of anticipation. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch". Patience Strong

A little true story for the month that's in it



On a cold day in 1942, inside a Nazi concentration camp, a lone, young boy looks out from the barbed wire and sees a young girl pass by. She, too, notices him, and is moved by his plight. To somehow express her feelings, she takes the apple she has in her hand and tosses it over the fence.

As the young boy picks up the apple, a ray of light pierces his darkness. The following day, hoping upon hope that he might see her again, he goes to the fence, looks out and sure enough she appears again prepared with an apple in her hand. Despite another day of wintry blizzards and chilly air, two hearts are moved again as the apple passes over the fence. The scene is repeated for several days- two young spirits reaching out to each other in spite of all that separates them. Then one day the boy says to the young girl: "You don't need to bring me an apple anymore. Tomorrow they are sending me to another camp." The young boy then turned and walked away, too heartbroken to look back.

Through all the horrors of the next years when the young boy lost everything but his life, the memory of that girl with the apple remained alive and gave him hope. In 1957, in the United States, two adults, both immigrants, are set up on a blind date. "And what were you doing during the war?" inquires the woman. The man replies: "I was in a concentration camp in Germany." She says: "Well, for a short while, I used to throw apples over the fence to a boy in a concentration camp." Stunned, the man speaks: "And did that boy say to you one day that you didn't need to bring the apples anymore?" She cannot respond. He then says: "I was that young boy. I was separated from you then, but I don't ever want to be without you again. Will you marry me?"

Awash in tears they embrace each other and she says "yes!" On Valentine's Day, 1996, on the Oprah Winfrey show, that same man affirmed his enduring love to his wife of forty years by saying: "You fed me in the concentration camp and you fed me through all of the years since. Now, I remain hungry only for your love."

Celebrate love this month with joy, with renewed commitment and with gratitude for all those whom we love and have loved in our lives

Healing Mass 11th February



A healing mass will be celebrated on Wednesday the 11th of February at 10 am in St Mochohog's.

This coincides with the feast of our Lady of Lourdes and (weather permitting) a decade of the rosary will be said at the newly instated grotto beforehand.

Tea and coffee served afterwards. All are welcome.

Ash Wednesday

Mass will be celebrated on Ash Wednesday, 18th February, at 10:15 am in St Mary's **for the whole parish. There will be no 10 am in Kilmac that day.** Although it is not a holy day of obligation, encourage as many of you as possible to attend.



Lent 2026. Is It Relevant?



Lent remains relevant in 2026 as a 40-day period of reflection, self-examination, and spiritual discipline. While traditional fasting persists, many modernise the practice by abstaining from digital distractions, improving habits, or engaging in charitable actions. It offers a space to refocus in a busy, "post-Christian" world.

Modern Relevance

Voluntary Focus: It is increasingly seen as a personal choice to deepen faith, rather than a forced obligation.

Modern Fasting: Instead of only food, people often give up social media, digital streaming, or negative attitudes like complaining. **Active Engagement:** Many use this time for positive actions, such as daily devotions, increased charity, or strengthening relationships.

Renewal: Even in secular contexts, the concept of a "digital detox" or resetting habits for 40 days mirrors the Lenten spirit of self-control.

While some may view it as outdated, for many, it serves as a valuable, intentional break to recalibrate life priorities.