

## The Feast of St. Brigid---Lá Fhéile Bríde

**There's a lesson in the Second, Fourth and Sixth Class Grow in Love books on St. Brigid**



The Feast of St. Brigid---Lá 'le Bríde---- occurs annually on 1<sup>st</sup> February. In Celtic pre-Christian times, the first day of Spring was called Imbolg. Since then, St. Brigid's Day signals the beginning of Spring.

- St. Brigid was born around the year 454 in Faughart, Co. Louth.

- She spent most of her life in Kildare (Cill Dara, meaning the little church made of oak), where she built an abbey/convent with a group of companions.
- She lived at the time of St. Patrick and when she heard his preaching about the one true God, it inspired her to live a Christian life.
- She wanted to dedicate her life to prayer and to helping the poor.
- St. Brigid spent her life doing ordinary things extraordinary well.
- The lessons in the Grow in Love books focus on her work, and on her love for God, and her kindness to all.



- There are many **legends** written in the Fourth Class book about St. Brigid: St. Brigid and the Dying Chieftain, St. Brigid and the Healer, St. Brigid and the Fire on the Hill of Kildare. There are **folklore** stories about St. Brigid's Well and St. Brigid's Cloak in the Second Class books

- St. Brigid became known far and wide for the welcome and hospitality she showed to the poor.

- St. Brigid became known as "Muire na nGael"----Mary of the Gaels.
- When she died, her body was brought to Downpatrick, in Co. Down, to be buried beside St. Patrick.
- Her abbey in Kildare continues to be a place of prayer and pilgrimage, where people gather around St. Brigid's Wall to honour her and to recall her life story.
- St. Brigid is now known as the *patroness of Ireland*.
- The Sisters of the Brigidine Order devote their lives to God, taking Brigid as their inspiration, and continue her work.



**\*Lessons on St. Brigid in the Grow in Love Books\***

Second Class: Child's Bk. Page 60-61

Teacher's Manual: Pages 298-308

Fourth Class: Child's Bk. Pages 97-99

Teacher's Manual: Pages 418-430

Sixth Class: Child's Bk. Pages 122-125

Teacher's Manual: Pages 472-484



*The cloak of St. Brigid is a reminder of God's generous love,  
And of all that is possible when we let God stretch us, expand us.  
May we trust God's generous love this year  
And be open to creating space and time for service and love....  
Even when that seems impossible to busy people like ourselves  
For nothing is impossible to God! (Luke 1:37)*

For more information and lessons, please see [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie) (Primary RE Resources)

