



LÁ Fhéile Bhríde



Sc. Bhríde, Mairtín of the Gael, pray for us"

Blessing of Crosses

Father of all creation and Lord of Light, You have given us life and entrusted your creation to us to use it and to care for it. We ask you to bless ☩ these crosses made of rushes in memory of St. Brigid. Bless also the place where they stand and on everyone who looks at them. She used the cross to recall and to teach your Son's life, death and resurrection. May these crosses be a sign of our sharing in the Paschal mystery of your Son, and a sign of your protection of our lives, our land and its creatures, through St. Brigid's intercession, during the coming year and always. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Job 30:25

Did I not feel for those whose day was hard?

Was not my soul grieved for the poor?

Collect

Merciful God, origin and reward of all charity, you called Saint Brigid to teach the new commandment of love through her life of hospitality and her care of the needy; give to your people, by her intercession, a generous spirit, so that, with hearts made pure, we may show your love to all. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from the Book of Job

Job 31:16-20, 24-25, 31-32

Have I been insensible to the needs of the poor, or let a widow's eyes grow dim?

Have I eaten my bit of bread on my own without sharing it with the orphan?

I, whom God has fostered father-like from childhood, and guided since I left my mother's womb, have I ever seen a wretch in need of clothing, or the poor with nothing to wear, without his having cause to bless me from his heart, as he felt the warmth of the fleece from my lambs?

**Have I put my faith in gold, saying to fine gold, 'Ah, my security'?
Have I ever gloated over my great wealth, or the riches that my hands have won?**

The people of my tent, did they not say, 'Will anyone name

a person whom he has not filled with meat?' No stranger ever had to sleep outside, my door was always open to the traveller.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 106 (107):35-38, 41-42.

Response:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end.

1.

He changes desert into streams,
thirsty ground into springs of water.
There he settles the hungry
and they build a city to dwell in. (R)

2.

They sow fields and plants their vines;
these yield crops for the harvest.
He blesses them; they grow in numbers.
He does not let their herds decrease.(R)

3. He raises the needy from distress;
makes families numerous as a flock.
The upright see it and rejoice
but all who do wrong are silenced.(R)

Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

**As long as we love one another,
God will live in us and his love will be complete in us.**

Alleluia!

**May Brigid hold you, enfold you, console you,
with her ever faithful love.**

Prayer after Communion

**You give us food from heaven, Lord, to strengthen us in love;
grant, we pray, through the intercession of Saint Brigid, that
works of charity continue to flourish and the light of true faith not
fail. Through Christ our Lord.**

Solemn Blessing

**Celebrant: May God, who in Saint Brigid has provided an
outstanding example of generosity:
make your ears be ever open to the cry of the poor.**

All: Amen.

**Celebrant: May you who greet Saint Brigid as Mary of the Gael
receive from Jesus, Son of Mary, the reward promised
to the pure of heart.**

All: Amen.

**Celebrant: May God fill you with his love, as you honour Saint
Brigid, whose heart and mind became a throne of rest
for the Holy Spirit.**

All: Amen.

**Celebrant: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and
the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and
remain with you for ever.**

All: Amen.

guest. Through her you showed a people the way of Mary, the Mother of your Son, in dedicated service and holiness of life. On this feast you fill our hearts with joy for you continue to bless the Church that you planted by her labours. And so, with the Angels and Archangels, and with the great multitude of the Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...

Communion Antiphon Mt 25:34, 36, 40
Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord. I was sick and you visited me. In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these, you did it to me.

Communion Reflection:

To welcome the new with faith and courage.
To cherish all that has gone before,
To become an example of justice and peace,
Weaver God, accept, please do,
the offering of ourselves, our separate strands,
to be woven in and out, over, under and through.
Grant us eyes to see the whole, of which we are a part,
to see the tapestry you weave,
calling us beyond our aloneness and security,
to be surprised by miracles.
Oh, if we could but perceive
out of parts we weave a whole.
Rise with the road on your journey,
May Brigid bless you, possess you, caress you,
with her ever faithful love.
Rise with the road on your journey,

Gospel

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
6:32-38

Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate. Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He Himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.' 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: *Jesus said, "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate". St. Brigid's was compassionate and she showed it in her kindness and generosity to the poor. Let us ask her today to pray for us that we will follow her example by spreading God's love wherever we go.*

1. In this Year of Mercy, we pray that St. Brigid will pray for all in our Church that they will show God's mercy and love to the

world. May those who have turned away from God be given the courage to return to the loving embrace of our Father in heaven.

Lord hear us.

2. We pray for peace in our world; may St. Brigid pray for peace for us and may Irish people all over the world be the first to reach out to others with peace, kindness, acceptance and generosity.

Lord hear us.

3. That the Lord will bless Ireland and its people wherever they are today. Through the intercession of St. Brigid may they be protection from all harm of soul or body and may they grow in goodness, kindness and love.

Lord hear us.

4. Through the intercession of St. Brigid we pray God's blessing on our land and on all animals. We remember in particular those families, homes and land that has suffered such devastation in the recent flooding. We pray those affected will get the help and resources they need to rebuild their lives.

Lord hear us.

5. We praise and thank God for the beginning of Spring. May the new life and growth in nature fill us with new hope and excitement for the coming year.

Lord hear us.

6. Through the intercession of St. Brigid we pray every family in our parish will be blessed with great peace and happiness. May all be given what they need to live happily and may they be generous in reaching out to all in need.

Lord hear us.

Celebrant: Saint 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. 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. 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. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer over the Offerings

As we present these gifts, O Lord, on the feast of Saint Brigid, may we come to know you as the source of all true love.

Through Christ our Lord.

Preface

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For your wonderful love is seen in Saint Brigid: you taught her to open her heart and hands to the poor and to seek the image of your Son in every welcomed