

From the Curate

This past week marked a special day in the Republic of Ireland. As of 2023, February 1st, or St. Brigid's Day, is now an official public holiday in that country. It is an effort to give a long weekend in February and is the first such holiday to be named after a woman in Ireland. But just who is this St. Brigid?



St. Brigit of Kildare (also Brigid or Bridget or Bride) is the patroness saint of Ireland – one of three national saints in addition to St. Patrick and St. Columba. She is reputed to have lived between the years 451 and 525, although there are few historical facts about her. Some historians suggest that St. Brigid was simply a Christian version of the Celtic goddess, Brig, and she has been sometimes referred to as “the Mary of the Gaels”. Her feast day, February 1st, has long been associated with a pagan festival which marks the beginning of spring, called Imbolc.

Seeing as Brigid's story is founded among many legends and folktales, there is a wide variance among details. There is some agreement among her biographies that she was born into slavery to a Druid, and she and her mother were eventually freed. Some accounts say she grew up as a farm worker working with sheep, cows, and tending the harvest. During this time, miracles are attributed to her including healing and feeding the poor; one miracle story was that she gave away her mother's entire butter supply to feed the poor, and replenished the supply through prayer. She was so generous, in fact, that she frequently gave away her parents' possessions, much to their annoyance.

Some time later, around the age of 30, she is said to have taken vows as a consecrated virgin, and tradition states that shortly thereafter founded a monastic community at Cell Dara (Kildare) – the site of the shrine to the Celtic goddess Brig. She was granted the authority of an Abbess – the leader of a monastery – and her monastery, along with another founded for men, became a centre of religion and learning, eventually becoming

a cathedral city of great influence. Tradition says she died February 1st, 525, in her seventies.

She is often depicted in Christian imagery holding a crozier – the staff of office of a bishop or abbot – a lamp, livestock, milk jugs, lilies, or sometimes imagery from one her many apocryphal stories. High up in the steeple at All Saints, Marysville (facing the cemetery), you can see at night an illuminated window of St. Brigid (spelled here Bridget), where she is included with a cow and some kind of root vegetable – possibly potatoes or parsnips – which both pay homage to her time on the farm. The cow, especially, is reminiscent of the legends of her miracles pertaining to dairy: milk and butter. She is also wearing a nun's habit, which signals her life of religious service.

Although it is entirely possible that St. Brigid never actually lived, the fact that her stories have influenced Irish Christians for over a thousand years is a testament to the working power of the Holy Spirit. The miracles of generosity and care that she championed are not something that we need special powers to be able to do, but rather are reachable to each and every one of us by the Grace of God. We all have the capacity to better our communities by helping to provide better nutrition, better access to education, and work for the sustainability of God's creation. May the lives of the Saints continue to give us examples of how to share the light of Christ in our daily lives.

O ALMIGHTY God, who willest to be glorified in thy Saints, and didst raise up thy servant Brigid to shine as a light in the world: Shine, we pray thee, in our hearts, that we also in our generation may show forth thy praises, who hast called us out of darkness into thy marvellous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(BCP, p. 304)



We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiyik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiyik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FEBRUARY 6: PRE-LENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

FEBRUARY 7: PRE-LENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*

FEBRUARY 8: PRE-LENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer
7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

FEBRUARY 9: PRE-LENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*
4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

FEBRUARY 10: PRE-LENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

FEBRUARY 11: THE SUNDAY CALLED SEXAGESIMA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer
5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

FEBRUARY 12: THE SUNDAY CALLED SEXAGESIMA

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer



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The Anglican Church of Canada *The Diocese of Fredericton*

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



Holiness & wisdom require deep roots in good soil. Cultivating & tending it isn't sexy or immediately transformative. Why do you think Jesus uses so many agricultural metaphors? Farming is boring. You can't see the roots grow. But then one day, there is it. Fruit. And you are fed. Don't look for excitement, personal development, success, or renown. Just look for Jesus Christ. You'll find him in what's true and already present. What's next is up to him.

Mater Britta: @PotentiaEtActus
The Reverend Brit Frazier, June 28, 2022

THE SUNDAY CALLED SEPTUAGESIMA

February 4, 2023

*So run that ye may obtain!
O come, let us worship!*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalms 22:22-31 & 23 | Jeremiah 15 | 2 Corinthians 12:14-13 end

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 18:1-7:	<i>page 347</i>
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 132</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 119 part 3:	<i>page 486</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 133</i>
Gradual Psalm 119 part 4:	<i>page 486</i>
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 133</i>
The Nicene Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
Post Communion Prayers:	<i>page 85</i>

THE SUNDAY CALLED SEPTUAGESIMA

February 5, 2023

*So run that ye may obtain!
O come, let us worship!*

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalm 104 part 1 | Genesis 1:1-2:3 | John 1:1-18

10:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

♪♪ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	102 (MONKLAND)
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 132</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 18:1-7:	<i>page 347</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 133</i>
♪♪ GRADUAL HYMN:	90 (TALLIS 87)
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 133</i>
The Nicene Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
♪♪ OFFERTORY HYMN:	221 (UNDE ET MEMORES)
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>
♪♪ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	427 (MONK'S GATE)

Parish Notices and Updates —

PARISH PRAYER LIST: One of the most important ministries which we are blessed to share here at St. Mary's is the ministry of prayer. At every Celebration of the Holy Eucharist we reserve a significant part of our time to pray for those, both within and beyond our Parish Family, who are facing challenges; and our efforts are deeply appreciated by more people than we could count. As we do from time to time, we will be starting with a fresh list this weekend. Deacon Nicholas is taking over responsibility for updating our prayer list, so please send your prayer requests to him at 588-3304 or nicholas.saulnier@anglican.nb.ca

DEACON NICHOLAS WILL BE OFFERING CONFIRMATION preparation to anyone wishing to be confirmed. It is hoped that there will be two programmes; one for those in late elementary and middle school and a second for those high school age and above. We hope to start in the next few weeks, so please speak to Deacon Nicholas or the Rector if you are interested or have any questions.

ST. MARY'S BIBLE STUDY is held each Friday from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Church. We're looking at a series called "Matriarchs & Patriarchs; Prophets & Papyri: the great stories of the Old Testament and how they point us to Jesus." Feel free to come along whenever you can!

ST. MARY'S BRANCH OF THE MOTHERS' UNION will be meeting on *Saturday, February 11th* from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Canon Keith Osborne will be speaking to them about the importance of ministry to seniors. They invite you to join with them. For more information please speak to Adele Knox or Shirley Hupman.

FAITH IN ACTION: BUILDING HOPE FOR TOMORROW IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE. Did you know that the government will give you money to make your home more energy efficient? It just makes sense – for the environment and your wallet! St. Mary's is hosting an information session on *Monday February 13th* from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come learn from Andrew Mathis who will explain the funding options, eligibility, what can be covered, and how to access the grants and the \$40,000 interest-free loan. Questions about the event? Email andrewmathis36@gmail.com.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK, will be held on *Sunday, February 19th*, on ZOOM at approximately 11:45 a.m. All members of the Parish are encouraged to take part in the meeting as

we review our work as a Parish in 2022 and make plans for 2023; and the Zoom link will be shared in the weekly email on February 11th & 18th. **In anticipation of the meeting, we are looking for your assistance in filling leadership roles within the Parish for the coming year.** The Parish Corporation serves a critical role in developing and supporting our mission as the Church; and we are always looking to add new voices to the conversation. Please give very prayerful consideration to how God may be calling you to share your gifts and talents. We will be preparing a Nomination Report for the meeting, so please speak to the Rector or one of the Parish Wardens if you are interested in being nominations, or if you have any questions about what this important ministry entails. **Copies of the audited financial report and the minutes of last year's meeting** are now available and are attached to this week's parish email. As well, some copies are available on the table in the narthex for those who prefer a paper copy. The reports will also be available as a pdf on the Parish website.

THERE IS A LONG-STANDING CUSTOM of using the palm crosses and branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration to prepare the ashes each year for the Ash Wednesday commemoration. If you wish to return your crosses and branches, please place them in the basket on the table in the Narthex by *Quinquagesima Sunday, February 19th*.

THE SEASON OF LENT, an important time in the Church's life, will begin on February 22nd with the commemoration of **Ash Wednesday**. For your convenience, you have the choice of attending either our morning celebration at *All Saints' Church in Marysville at 10:00 a.m.* or our evening celebration at *St. Mary's at 7:00 p.m.* Everyone is warmly encouraged to set aside time to attend one of these two Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist that together we might begin the journey to the Cross.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR: On Saturday, February 25th, together with thousands of Canadians across the country, a team from our Diocesan Synod Office – Anglican Energy – will again be walking and fundraising to support hungry, homeless, and hurting people and families in our communities, raising funds for Youth in Transition and the John Howard Society. Please consider sponsoring the team by going to <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=990014> You can also go to **cnoy.org** and search for the Fredericton event and support the team that way.

