

Brigid 1500

Louth Birthplace of Brigid

Launch

Fri 26th Jan, 2024

The programme will commence with the launch of the Brigid 1500 Arts Exhibition which aims to capture the remarkable life story of one of the country's best known saints.

Brigid 1500 Arts Exhibition

Fri 26th Jan – Mon 5th Feb, 2024

Dundalk Town Centre

'Artist In The Community' Project

Led by Creative Spark, this project brings communities throughout the county together to celebrate the life and legacy of St. Brigid through art and creativity.



The four artists taking part are Susan Farrelly and Una Curley who are both textile & mixed media artists, Claire McAteer who is a textile & print artist, and Etaoin O'Reilly, a ceramicist. The artists are working with a number of community groups and schools to develop a series of art works centered on the theme of St. Brigid. It is anticipated that about 15 pieces of art ranging in various sizes will be on display during the Brigid 1500 commemorations.

'St. Brigid's Cloak' Project

A newly designed St. Brigid's Cloak by the students of St. Brigid's School, Ard Easmuinn, will also be on display during the exhibition.

An initiative of the Creative Ireland Louth programme and Louth County Council Arts office, the cloak has been designed and facilitated by artist Shauna Swords. The students worked with Shauna, meticulously creating individual impressions onto hundreds of specially cut copper foil circles. Each circle was hand stenciled, then stitched and glued together to create strands of vibrant and detailed work, which all came together to make this spectacular life sized cloak.

(Admission is free)



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

A programme of events and initiatives to honour the life and legacy of Brigid



'St. Brigid of Ireland' Museum Exhibition

Fri 26th Jan – Thurs 29th Feb, 2024

County Museum, Dundalk

This is a beautiful exhibition celebrating the life and achievement of one of our greatest saints. The exhibition highlights her roots in both Pagan and Christian traditions, and her interests in areas as diverse as dairy farming, beekeeping, the creative arts, fugitives and infants - which remain relevant to this day. (Admission is free)

Talks & Lectures

Sat 27th Jan, 2024

Oriel Centre, Dundalk

A series of talks and lectures will take place on Saturday 27th January, 2024 covering a range of informative topics around Brigid. Local expert Dolores Whelan will be working with Womens Spirit Ireland and Dr Mary Condren to curate a number of talks. Further details of speakers and topics will be released over the coming weeks.

The Northern Lights - Brigid 1500

Wed 31st Jan – Sun 25th Feb, 2024

Dundalk Town Centre

Brought to you by Dundalk BIDS in conjunction with Louth County Council.

Never before seen in Ireland this spectacular lighting show celebrates Brigid of Faughart as a beacon of light connecting the past to the present, illuminating her legacy and transcending her story into the future!

This multisensory light performance encapsulates the spirit of Brigid - combining her historical, cultural and spiritual story with creativity and state-of-the-art technology, all choreographed to the rhythm of music that will invigorate and inspire. This incredible attraction is free of charge and a must see for all ages!

Three unforgettable shows will take place each evening in Dundalk Town Centre at 6pm, 6.30pm and 7pm running from Wednesday 31st of January to Monday 5th of February, 2024 followed by weekend shows throughout the remainder of the month.

Brigid Workshops

Throughout January 2024

Dundalk, Drogheda & Ardee Libraries

Louth Library Service in conjunction with Louth County Council Arts office are delighted to announce the return of the Brigid workshops that took place between May and July, 2023 as part of the Brigid Cloak Tour. The workshops with Susan Farrelly and Una Curley proved so successful that we are bringing them back throughout January and early February, 2024 as part of the Brigid 1500 commemorations. Artist Shauna Swords who created the cloak with the students in St. Brigid's School in Dundalk will also be delivering some Brigid themed workshops. Full details of all workshops will be released closer to the time along with all booking details. Workshops will once again take place in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries and will be free of charge.

St. Brigid's Cross making workshops for local schools will also be held in Dundalk Library.

Brigid Live Performance

Thurs 1st & Fri 2nd Feb, 2024

An Táin Arts Centre, Dundalk

This newly devised theatre experience will re-tell the story of St. Brigid from her birth and childhood in Faughart, to her death in Kildare. Louth County Council Arts Officer, Moya Hodgers began working with

Daithí Kearney, DKIT School of Music, and Adele Commins, DKIT Head of Creative Arts, Media and Music, earlier this year on the idea, and they have pulled together a creative team who are working on this newly commissioned piece which will include music, dance and storytelling.

The team includes Paul Hayes, Creative Director & Anna Simpson, writer, along with Alan Leech, Choral Director. The entire cast and crew are made up of a combination of professional artists and members of local community groups, who are working to create a really special theatrical experience.

The event will open with a special invite only preview show on 31st January, 2024 and will be open to the public on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd February, 2024. Tickets will be on sale at AnTáin Arts Centre and will open for booking in December, 2023.

Candlelit Tales

Sat 3rd Feb, 2024

Oriel Centre, Dundalk

The team at Candlelit Tales will be in the Oriel Centre on Saturday 3rd February, 2024 for a special, unique performance to commemorate Brigid.

Candlelit Tales' passion for Irish mythology and expression delivers unforgettable performances and an experience you do not want to miss. Having performed before in the surrounds of the Oriel Centre the team are very excited to be returning to such an atmospheric venue and it will be a truly enjoyable experience for all. Booking for this event will be opening towards the end of the year.

Other Initiatives

Brigid 1500 Retail Window Decoration Scheme

The purpose of this scheme is to encourage retail and commercial business' in County Louth to dress their premises' window in the theme of St. Brigid/Brigid the Goddess as part of the commemoration of 'Brigid 1500'. The scheme will be open for applications from Wednesday 25th October, 2023. Application Forms together with the full Terms & Conditions of the scheme are available on the Louth County Council website at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/brigid-1500-retail-window-decoration-scheme/>

Brigid 1500 Grant Scheme for Creative & Community Events 2024

This scheme will be open to individual artists, art groups and community groups who wish to run creative and community projects, or events, for the Brigid 1500 Festival in 2024. All events and projects must take place in County Louth during the 2024 Brigid 1500 commemorations which will run from Friday 26th January until Monday 5th February inclusive. Applications will be open from November, 2023.



School Resource Pack

A school resource pack will be made available online in December 2023 for all schools. The pack will include colouring templates for kids to complete, historical information panels and project ideas for schools to create. We will also be running competitions for all budding artists and poets out there to be considered for inclusion in our Brigid 1500 Exhibition, more details will be revealed soon.

Brigid Trail

A Brigid Trail will be developed incorporating the local points of interest associated with Brigid. This will be available in the New Year.

ICA/Womens Groups Project

The ICA will be pulling together a Brigid themed Yarn Bombing at Market Square as part of the commemorations. The ICA guilds will be working collectively over the coming weeks to create panels which will be showcased in our public spaces to celebrate all things relating to Brigid.

Associated Events

Brigid of Faughart Festival 2024 - A celebration of Brigid, Goddess and Saint

Wed 31st Jan – Mon 5th Feb, 2024

Taking place in Faughart, Dundalk and Ravensdale, the annual Brigid of Faughart Festival will inspire, illuminate, guide and uplift us in these troubled times through:

Inspirational talks, Sacred ritual, Cross and Crios making, Brat Bhride making, Healing Day, Pilgrimage Walk from Dundalk to Faughart, Sacred Sites of Faughart Tours, Music, Poetry, Storytelling and so much more.

With special guests: Visiting Canadian poet Mael Brigde reading from her new book 'A Brigit of Ireland Devotional', and Rita O Loughlin bringing her much celebrated Bhrat Bhride (Brigid's mantle) project to the festival.

Sat 3rd Feb, 2024	Cross Making & Crios Making Workshops (An Táin Arts Centre)
Sun 4th Feb, 2024	Pilgrimage Walk from Dundalk – Faughart
Sun 4th & Mon 5th Feb, 2024	Sacred Site Tours at Faughart with Roisin Cotter & Pat O'Rourke
Mon 5th Feb, 2024	Brat Bhride Workshop (An Táin Arts Centre)
Mon 5th Feb, 2024	Closing Ritual (Ravensdale)

For more information please see www.brigidoffaughart.ie

Faughart Community Group Candlelit Procession at 6pm

Sun 4th Feb, 2024

Faughart Community Group will host a candlelit procession for all religions and none to celebrate the life of St. Brigid, the inspirational woman who achieved extraordinary things in her lifetime. The procession will be led by a lone drummer and women carrying a contemporary representation of Brigid.

There will be Gregorian Chant music at the end of the procession and the emphasis of this event will be on light and fire as new life springs forth.