

Brigid 1500

Louth Birthplace of Brigid

Brigid 1500 Art Exhibition

Sat 27th Jan – Mon 5th Feb, 2024 (10am - 5pm)

4-5 Clanbrassil Street (formerly Houstons),
Dundalk, A91V6W3

'Cruinniú Bhríde'

Artist In The Community' Project

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

The five artists who took part, 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, were led

by Grainne Murphy, project lead. The artists have been working with a number of community groups and schools to develop a series of art works centered on the theme of St. Brigid. The works created will be on display throughout the Brigid1500 exhibition.

'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 in 2023, 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



Brigid of Faughart Mural, Dundalk by artist Friz

'St. Brigid of Ireland' Museum Exhibition

Sat 27th Jan – Thurs 29th Feb, 2024 (Open Tues – Sat from 10am – 5pm. Closed for lunch from 1-2pm)
County Museum, 8 Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, A91 TW22

This is a beautiful exhibition celebrates 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 - 'Brigit's Ancient Roots at Faughart'

Sat 27th Jan, 2024 (11:00 am - 4:30pm)

Oriel Centre, Carrick Road, Dundalk

A day of talks and lectures focusing on stories, archaeology, symbols and figures surrounding Brigit. Led by Mary Condren, Th.D. : Panel discussion, poetry and song with focus on the three main Brigit artefacts – Brigit's Cross; the Crios/Belt; and her Cloak from Brigit's main festival of Imbolc
Tickets are €10 each / €5 concession – booking at www.orielcentre.ie

The Northern Lights - Brigit 1500

Wed 31st Jan – Thur 29th 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 Brigit of Faughart as a beacon of light connecting the past to the present, illuminating her legacy and transcending her story into the future!

This unforgettable audio-visual performance encapsulates the spirit of Brigit - 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.

From Wednesday 31st of January to Monday 5th of February, three exclusive audio-visual light shows will take place each evening in Dundalk Town Centre at **6pm, 6.30pm and 7pm**, followed by the installation remaining illuminated (without audio) until 10pm on those evenings.

Thereafter the celebrations will continue as the installation will be illuminated from 5pm – 10pm daily (without audio) until the end of the month.

The theme of the installation is inspired by the design of the iconic Brigit of Faughart mural created by renowned Irish artist Friz.

This incredible attraction is free of charge and a must see for all ages!

Brigid 1500 Workshops

Tues 16th Jan – Sat 10th Feb, 2024

Dundalk, Drogheda & Ardee Libraries

Louth Library Service in conjunction with Louth County Council Arts office present the following workshops:

Brigid 1500 - Loose Floral Watercolour Workshop 'Spring Flowers' with artist Caoimhe O'Dwyer

20/01/2024 10am - 12pm in Ardee Library

23/01/2024 10am - 12pm in Ardee Library

30/01/2024 10am - 12pm in Ardee Library

03/02/2024 10am - 12pm in Dundalk Library

Workshops Theme: Bridog Dolls - Shauna Swords

19/01/2024 2pm - 4.30pm in Dundalk Library

02/02/2024 2pm - 4.30pm in Dundalk Library

09/02/2024 2pm - 4.30pm in Dundalk Library

10/02/2024 10am - 12.30pm in Dundalk Library

Introduction to paper quilling, participants will design their own patch for St Brigid's cloak - Vivienne Byrne (Adult only workshop)

16/01/2024 10am – 12pm in Drogheda Library

17/01/2024 10am - 12pm in Dundalk Library

23/01/2024 10am – 12pm in Drogheda Library

24/01/2024 10am – 12pm in Dundalk Library

Bookings can be made by emailing libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie or by phoning the relevant Library at:
Drogheda Library: 041-9876162 | Dundalk Library: 042-9353190 | Ardee Library: 041-6859023
(Admission is free)

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

Brigid Lady of Light - Theatrical Performance

Thurs 1st & Fri 2nd Feb, 2024 (8.00 pm)

An Táin Arts Centre, Dundalk

*"Born of Dawn, sprung from Spring,
to this Lady of Light we now sing.
Bridging was and is, the old and the new,
Brigid, O Brigid, we sing unto you."*

Brigid: Woman, Goddess, or Saint?

Louth County Council are proud to bring together local and community artists in a new, specially commissioned, theatrical retelling of the life and times of Brigid of Faughart, Co. Louth written by Anna Simpson.

Marking 1500 years since Brigid's passing, this performance combines poetic storytelling, live original music, singing, and dance in a stunning celebration of a towering and beloved figure of local and national significance in Irish history, and folklore.

Tickets €15 (plus €1.50 booking fee per ticket). Book online at www.aintain.ie or phone +353 (0)42 9332332

Candlelit Tales

Sat 3rd Feb, 2024 (Doors Open – 7.30 pm | Start time 8pm)

Oriel Centre, Dundalk

The team at Candlelit Tales bring you the story of Brigid in their own unique style of breathing life back into Irish Myths. Set in the atmospheric surrounding of the Oriel Centre this will be a wonderful evening of storytelling and music. Tickets €10. Visit www.orielcentre.ie for bookings.

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 is now open for applications and will close at 12 noon on Friday, 26th January 2024. Application Forms together with the full Terms & Conditions of the scheme are available on the Louth County Council website at www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/brigid-1500-retail-window-decoration-scheme/

Brigid's Trail

A Brigid's Trail has been developed incorporating the local points of interest associated with Brigid. The map & guide is available to pick up from Dundalk Tourist Office or may be downloaded from www.visitlouth.ie/visitor-info/brigid1500.html

ICA Yarn Bomb Brigid 1500

Thur 25th Jan - Thur 8th Feb 2024

Market Square and Art Exhibition, 4-5 Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk

I.C.A. Louth Federation members are delighted to be back in Market Square, Dundalk supporting the celebration of #Brigid1500. Members have been busy over the festive season creating their interpretation of St Brigid's Cloak which is installed at Market Square.

Under the creative guidance of their Arts and Crafts Officer Susan Potts, the collage of squares made by each member in the county represent the forty shades of green of our fair isle. The cloak was then embellished with flowers made by members representing St Brigid's values which align closely to the Irish Countrywomen's Association's.

In true ICA spirit, some items from previous yarnbombing of the square will also be incorporated, in addition to the Cloak. Other ICA items will form part of the Art Exhibition in the former Houston's Building, 4-5 Clanbrassil St., where you can also find out more information about the I.C.A.

Associated Events

Cooley Connect Well - Brigid 1500 Schedule of Events

Cooley Peninsula Connect Well are delighted to announce the following events as part of the Brigid 1500 celebrations in Louth:

January 2024

- Sun 14th Nature Walk for Beginners from Mullaghbuoy (1km) - 10.00am
Morning Breakfast Bakes & Social Sew - Mullaghbuoy Hall - 11.00am
- Mon 15th Hand Sewing Patchwork - Mullaghbuoy Hall - 11.00am
- Tue 16th Brigid Stories & Sewing - Carlingford Marina - 12.00pm
- Sun 21st Nature Walk for Beginners - Glenmore (2km) - 10.00am
Morning Breakfast Bakes & Social Sew - 11.00am
- Mon 22nd Sewing Patchwork Blankets - Mullaghbuoy Hall - 11.00am
- Sat 27th Textile Weaving with Natural Fibres & Social Sew - Ravensdale Hall - 12.00pm
- Sun 28th Hill Walk & Nature Talk across Spellickanee following the Tain Way to the Lumpers - (6km) - 11.00am
Quilting & Applique techniques - Ravensdale Hall - 3.00pm
- Mon 29th Weaving the Brat Bríde: Sewing St Brigid's crosses & other applique designs on Brigid's cloak - Mullaghbuoy Hall - 11.00am
- Tues 30th Book Club Meeting - Ballymascanlon Hotel for a discussion on Brigid - 12.30pm
Walk & Talk to Proleek Dolmen - Hotel car park (2km) - 2.00pm
- Wed 31st Walk in nature to collect rushes on Eve of Brigid (2km) - 11.00am
An evening of Embroidery on the Eve of Brigid - Brat Bríde Creative - Carlingford Marina - 4.00pm

February

- Thurs 1st Making St. Brigid's Crosses with rushes - Mullaghbuoy Hall - 11.00am
- Sat 3rd A Walk Through Brigid's Land: walk & talk about experiencing life in 6th century Ireland to modern times - Grange - 2km - 11.00am

Sun 4th/Mon 5th Connecting the Brigid Weave: Community pop up walks & events.

Additional coffee mornings & walks around the peninsula, walking & weaving the finishing threads of Brigid's cloak.

Completing the Weave of Brigid's Cloak: sewers come together to create an aerial presentation & photograph.

Contact cooleyconnectwellbeing@gmail.com for more details.

Artisans Dundalk - Brigid: Colours of Tradition

Fri 26th Jan 2024 at 7pm

Carroll Mead Hall, McEntee Avenue, Dundalk, A91V8K0

Join the Artisans for this special Brigid 1500 event featuring guest speakers, live music and watercolour painting using water from St Brigid's Stream. Each guest will be invited to produce a piece of artwork, which will be attached to a cloak to represent the fields that legend says Brigid's cloak covered.

Refreshments will be served. Open to the public. No need to book in advance.

“Writing with Brigid” Poetry Workshop

Sat 27th Jan 2024 from 2-4pm
Governor’s House, Millmount, Drogheda

Participants will be invited to explore contemporary poetry that features St. Brigid/Brigid the Goddess and will be given timed writing exercises to assist with writing poems. At the end of the workshop, participants will have two new poems to bring home. There will be space towards the end of the workshop for those who are comfortable with sharing their work with others to do so. This will be a friendly, supportive and accessible environment for those who are new to poetry.

This workshop is suitable for those with no experience of creative writing as well as more seasoned, published poets with diverse styles of work who are looking for new sources of inspiration. Participants will not need any prior knowledge of mythology or stories connected to Brigid and will be provided with materials to use in the workshop and to take home. All that is required is an enthusiasm to write.

Facilitated by Stephanie Ní Thiarnaigh. Email droghedapoetry@gmail.com to register attendance.

Tridium to St. Brigid

Tues 30th Jan - Thurs 1st Feb 2024 (9am and 7pm)

St. Nicholas’ Church, Dundalk

A Tridium of prayer to St. Brigid will take place on Tues, Wed and Thurs at 9am and 7pm in St. Nicholas’ Church, Dundalk

St. Brigid’s Tridium at Faughart Shrine

Tues 30th Jan - Thurs 1st Feb 2024 (see times below)

St. Brigid’s Shrine Chapel, Faughart, Dundalk

Tuesday 30th January - 7.30pm and Wednesday 31st January - 7.30pm: Mass at the Oratory with Fr. Anthony Meredith. IC. **(Saint Brigid’s Relic will be on display at both of these masses)**

Thursday 1st February - 11am: A Mass will be celebrated in St. Brigid’s Shrine Chapel, Faughart with Bishop Michael Router to commemorate the 1500th anniversary of St. Brigid’s death.

Feast of St. Brigid - Evening Prayer & Lighting of St. Brigid’s Light

Thurs 1st Feb 2024, 8pm

Faughart Old Graveyard & St. Brigid’s Shrine, Faughart, Dundalk

On the feast of St. Brigid, Evening Prayer will be prayed in the Shrine at Faughart.

The evening will commence with a candlelit procession and rosary, led by Bishop Michael Router, starting at Faughart Old Graveyard, the site of St. Brigid’s Well.

Evening Prayer at the shrine will include a Service of Light, the lighting of a beacon and an anniversary candle dedicated to St. Brigid. Candles will be provided. **(Saint Brigid’s Relic will be on display)**

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

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 Bhlat Bhride (Brigid's mantle) project to the festival.

Thursday 1st Feb, 2024
County Museum Dundalk:

6.30pm - 8.00pm | Mael Brigde "This World and the Other – Magical Stories with the Saint and the Goddess Brigit" plus music.

Tickets €15.00 plus €2.07 booking fee. For bookings go to www.eventbrite.ie

Saturday 3rd Feb, 2024
An Táin Arts Centre, Dundalk:

10.30am – 12.30pm | Symbols of Brigid Workshop

St. Brigid's Cross and Crios Making Workshop with Roisin Cotter & Maura Lennon.

Tickets €10.00 plus €1.50 booking fee.

Book online at www.antain.ie or Phone: 353 42 9332332

County Museum, Dundalk:

Wisdom Talks with Dolores Whelan and Manchán Magan with poetry by Siobhán Mac Mahon

2.30pm – 3.45pm | Dolores Whelan "Brigid, Goddess, Saint and Wise Guide in these Challenging Times".

For bookings go to www.eventbrite.ie

4.15pm – 5.30pm | Manchán Magan "Listen to the Land Speak: reconnecting to the Goddess of the earth"
with poetry by Siobhán Mac Mahon.

Tickets €15.00 per talk plus €2.07 booking fee. For bookings go to www.eventbrite.ie

**Special Afternoon ticket for both talks €25.00 plus €2.79 booking fee. For bookings go to www.eventbrite.ie*

Sunday 4th Feb, 2024

11.00am – 2.00pm | Pilgrimage Walk from Fatima, Dundalk to Faughart

Start from St. Joseph's Church, Fatima Dundalk A91 EK77 to Faughart A91 Y771 (7 km)

Refreshments will be served at Faughart. Please car pool if possible.

For bookings contact: info@brigidoffaughart.ie

Donations €10 or more welcome

2.30pm – 4.30pm | Sacred Sites Tour with Pat O'Rourke

Tour begins at St. Brigids Shrine, Faughart A91 Y771 and continues to The Hill of Faughart (1 km)

For bookings contact: info@brigidoffaughart.ie

Donations €10 or more welcome.

Monday 5th Feb, 2024

An Táin Arts Centre, Dundalk:

11.30am – 1.30pm | Brat Bhride Workshop with Rita O Loughlin,

Bring along a scarf or piece of fabric to make your own unique Brat Bhride to bring home.

Tickets €10 plus €1.50 booking fee.

Book online at www.antain.ie or Phone: 353 42 9332332

11.00am – 1.00pm | Tour of Faughart Sacred Sites with Roisin Cotter

Starting at the Hill of Faughart Car Park and walking to St. Brigid's Shrine A91 Y771 (1 km)

For bookings contact: info@brigidoffaughart.ie.

Donations €10 or more welcome

5.00pm – 7.00pm | Imbolc Closing Ritual

Ravensdale Community Centre A91 P297

Join the festival team for the very special Closing Ritual as we bring the 2024 festival and our Brigid 1500 celebrations to a close.

For bookings contact: info@brigidoffaughart.ie. Donations €10 or more welcome

For more information on the festival please see www.brigidoffaughart.ie

Friends of Ardee Bog Celebrate Imbolc

Sat 3rd Feb 2024

Forest Bathing with Fiona Crawley (10am-12:30pm)

Join us for Forest bathing in a woodland in Ardee Bog with an accredited Nadur forest therapy guide to support you and allow you to deeply relax and tune into your senses. Forest bathing is a nature, immersive experience that helps to focus your attention on the senses, hence improving your mood, and providing a sense of calm and relaxation. Spend a few hours in Forest time.

Spaces are limited. Book via Eventbrite www.eventbrite.com

Bog Walk with Adrian Crawley (1pm-2pm)

Meet our photographer in residence Adrian Crawley for a bog walk to discover his favourite spots for photos on Ardee Bog. Book via Eventbrite www.eventbrite.com

The Bog Cafe celebrates Imbolc in Churchtown Pub, Co. Louth (3.30pm-6.30pm)

Location: 53.88938639861792, -6.614534226984538

Friends of Ardee Bog are looking forward to hosting you in Churchtown Pub for a fab afternoon of chats, refreshments and an extremely exciting line up of events for a special Imbolc Bog Cafe in Churchtown Pub.

- A talk with archaeologist Dr. Eve Campbell on Bogs and Pre-Christian Beliefs
- Making a Brigit's Girdle: Hands on Practical Protection Magic for the coming year
- Live poetry with Niamh Beirne and Nuala Leonard
- Music with local Folk Artist and piper Brendan McCreanor
- The launch of our project "Deep Mapping Ardee Bog"

Visit www.facebook.com/ardeebog/ for more information.

Faughart Community Group Candlelit Procession

Sun 4th Feb, 2024 (6.30pm)

Faughart Community Group will host a medieval style 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.

