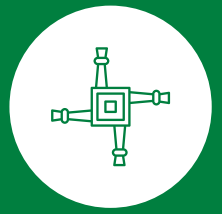


# ANNIVERSARY CANDLE AND PARISH CELEBRATIONS



As we commemorate the 1500th anniversary of Saint Brigid's life, a symbolic ceremony of light marks the commencement of our jubilee year. On the 1st of February 2024, Evening Prayer at the Shrine to St. Brigid in Faughart Parish will witness the illumination of the Anniversary Candle — a flame heralding a year of celebration, inspiration, and renewed faith.



This candle, ignited during the sacred ceremony, holds profound significance and will be bestowed upon the community of the Poor Clare Sisters residing in the nearby monastery, close to St. Brigid's birthplace. The sisters, custodians of this flame, will engage in daily prayer invoking St. Brigid's intercession. Through their devotion they will ask for blessings upon the Church in the Archdiocese of Armagh, seeking inspiration and renewal from Saint Brigid's enduring spirit and ministry.

We extend an open invitation to all parishes across the Archdiocese to partake in commemorating Saint Brigid's legacy throughout this year. Embracing the values cherished by Saint Brigid — faith, biodiversity, sustainability, arts, social justice, peace, hospitality, and education — parishes are encouraged to celebrate her life and teachings through liturgical observances and community gatherings.

In a gesture of unity, parishes have the opportunity to engage with the Poor Clare Monastery in Faughart. They may arrange to receive a portion of the light from the Anniversary Candle, a tangible symbol of Saint Brigid's enduring legacy. This light, blessed with the prayers and devotion of the Poor Clare Sisters, can then be carried back to their respective parishes, illuminating their celebrations with the sanctity and the inspiration of St. Brigid.



The roots of this gesture lie deep within the contemplative life of the Poor Clare's in Faughart. Their dedication to the Celtic monastic tradition — a fusion of Celtic spirituality and the eremitical legacy embraced by St. Francis and St. Clare—mirrors the ancient practices cherished by St. Brigid herself. In the solitude of their hermitages, the sisters embody a profound connection to God, humanity, and creation — a rhythm of prayer and reflection shaped by the tradition embraced by Francis and Clare.

The symbolism of the Anniversary Light, shared from the monastery to parishes, resonates with the interconnectedness of our faith, our heritage, and our collective journey towards spiritual renewal. It embodies the essence of St. Brigid — a beacon of hope, compassion, and unwavering faith, guiding us through the corridors of time, uniting us in celebration, contemplation, and shared devotion.

