

Liturgy We Live *by Dr. Gil Haas*

St. Brigid, Patrick, and Columbo, are the patron saints of Ireland. Brigid's feast day is February 1. She was born in 451 AD, the daughter of Dubhthach, court poet to King Loeghaire, and Brocca, a Christian slave. Brigid's charity seemed boundless, and she was incessantly giving away possessions to the needy. This generosity so irritated her father, that he attempted to sell her into slavery. However, Dubhthach's Christian monarch convinced Dubhthach to grant Brigid's freedom. Brigid founded a monastery at Kildare on the site of a pagan shrine housing an eternal flame. Rather than extinguish the flame, Brigid gave it a Christian tradition. She founded a school of art that produced the beautifully illuminated Book of Kildare, which was lost during the Reformation. Sts. Brigid and Patrick formed a friendship of charity described as "one heart and one mind". When Patrick heard Brigid's vows to become an abbess, he accidentally used the form for ordaining a priest, an action he refused to reverse. Brigid's skull was purportedly carried to Lumiar, Portugal, by crusading Irish knights. However, she may have been reburied with the relics of Sts. Patrick and Columbo in Down Cathedral, Ireland, during the Scandinavian raids.

If you have a liturgical question or an inquiry about anything that transpires during or around our worship service, please forward the question you would like researched to: gghaas@aol.com, or drop the question in the offering basin. Please note whether we can credit you as the source of the question.