

St. Brigid Rebels Against her Father

BRIGID  1500

St. Brigid was born in Faughart, Co. Louth, the daughter of a Christianised slave named Brockagh and a wealthy, pagan Leinster chieftain named Dubhtach.

Her mother had been baptised by St. Patrick and intended to raise Brigid in the Christian way. When she was pregnant, Dubhtach sold her to a nearby Druid as a slave.

Brigid spent her first ten years working on this man's farm - washing, cooking and feeding animals. Her poor mother constantly chastised Brigid for giving away their belongings to the poor.

When she was ten her father sought her return and she became his servant, where she began giving away his belongings and maddening him.

As she got older she became renowned for her incredible beauty. Her father, tired of his wealth being given away, decided to marry her off to the King of Ulster. Brigid did not want to marry as she felt her calling was to a religious life.

Brigid rebelled against her father's wishes by praying that her good looks would leave her so the King of Ulster would not want to marry her and her wish was granted. This made her father even more angry.

Eventually her father decided to rid himself of her and brought her to the King of Leinster to ask that he take her.

The King looked on as Brigid quietly stole her father's bejewelled sword and gave it to a poor man that was passing by to sell so he could feed his family.

The king said that her father should set her free from slavery, "for her merit before God is greater than ours". This Dubhtach did, allowing Brigid follow her faith and giving her the freedom to study for a religious life and to eventually become the Abbess of Kildare and our renowned Saint Brigid.