

BRIGID'S WORLDS PROGRAMME

A conference exploring the life and times
of St Brigid and her Church of Kildare
from the 5th to the 9th centuries

Maynooth University
13th and 14th September 2024

BRIGID  **1500**
Celebrating A Woman, A Life, A Legacy.

For more information and details
on how to register please visit
www.brigid1500.ie



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Brigid's Worlds Programme

Friday 13th September

Renehan Hall & Pugin Hall

9:30 Registration

10:00 Renehan Hall

Welcome by Dr Niamh Wycherley & Chief Executive of Kildare County Council Sonya Kavanagh

Opening of Brigid's Worlds by Maynooth University President Professor Eeva Leinonen

10:30 – 12:00 Renehan Hall — session 1

DAVID STIFTER

'The significance of "Brigit"'

DOROTHY ANN BRAY

'The feast day of St Brigid and the festival of Imbolg'

EDEL BHREATHNACH

'From one religion to another: the significance of conversion in Brigid's life and the foundation of Kildare'

12:00 – 13:15 Pugin Hall — lunch with tea/coffee

Optional tours of Museum of Ecclesiology, St Patrick's Maynooth, and Russell Library (details will be provided at the conference)

13:15 – 14:45 Renehan Hall — session 2

CLARE STANCLIFFE

'The early Lives of St Brigid revisited'

ELIZABETH DAWSON

'The changing fortunes of St Brigid: navigating Uí Néill Territory, Leinster & Kildare'

FABIO MANTEGAZZA

'The textual transmission of Cogitosus's *Vita sanctae Brigidae* through the names of Brigid's parents'

14:45 – 15:15 Pugin Hall — tea/coffee

15:15 – 16:45 Renehan Hall — session 3

CONOR MCDONOUGH

“Mary of the Gael”: what does it mean?’

CATHERINE SWIFT

‘The nature of Brigid’s community — as viewed through a Cappadocian lens’

KATJA RITARI

‘Female sanctity in the Lives of Saint Brigid’

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**18:45** Iontas Foyer — Display of a replica of the early medieval ogham stone from Donaghmore, Maynooth, by Prof. David Stifter (Head of School of Celtic Studies) and launch of the OG(H)AM project video, produced by the Department of Early Irish, Maynooth University, and Department of Celtic & Gaelic, University of Glasgow.

Drinks reception and hot finger food served in the Iontas Foyer hosted by Prof. Alison Hood (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities)

**19:45** Iontas Lecture Theatre — public talk  
Welcome

**20:00** Public Talk PROFESSOR CATHERINE MCKENNA ‘Brigid: the knowns and unknowns’.

## Saturday 14th September

### Renehan Hall & Pugin Hall

**9:30** Registration

**10:00 – 11:30** Renehan Hall — Session 4

THOMAS OWEN CLANCY

'St Brigid and her cult in early medieval Scotland'

JEAN-MICHEL PICARD

'The cult of Saint Brigid in continental Europe and the manuscripts of Cogitosus's *Vita Brigitae*'

PÁDRAIG Ó RIAIN

'From the Continent to Ireland: the written record of Brigid's feast day'

**11:30 – 12:00** Pugin Hall — tea/coffee and pastries

**12:00 – 13:30** Renehan Hall — Session 5

TIAGO VELOSO SILVA

'Women's ecclesiastical patronage: the case of Kildare'

SHARON GREENE

'Traces of Brigid's material world'

NIAMH WYCHERLEY

'Conference conclusions and discussion — St Brigid of Kildare's 1500th anniversary and the construction of a medieval female national saint in the 21st century'

**13:45** Bus to Kildare Town (or make own travel arrangements)

**14:45** Tour of Kildare Town and Cathedral including tea, coffee and sandwiches

**17:00** Return bus to Maynooth (or make own arrangements)