



SOLAS BHRÍDE  
CENTRE AND  
HERMITAGES

Celebrating 30 Years in Kildare Town

# Newsletter

## Winter Newsletter

### REKINDLING THE FLAME

A Pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Brigid

THE WAIT IS OVER...  
Rekindling the Flame has arrived!

**R**ekindling the Flame  
A PILGRIMAGE  
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRIGID OF KILDARE  
NEW EDITION  
Revised by  
Rita Minehan CSB

'Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home'

- Edith Sitwell

Dear Friends,

There were big smiles and cheers as the delivery of the revised edition of 'Rekindling the Flame' arrived at Solas Bhríde last week. After months of contemplation and editing by Rita Minehan csb, this beautiful reflective guide is the perfect companion for your pilgrim journey in Kildare and is now available to purchase from Solas Bhríde. The book will be officially launched on February 26th 2023.

We are delighted that Joe Murray from Afri (Action from Ireland), has contributed an article on the beginnings of Féile Bríde and reflecting on the relevance of Brigid for today. The first Féile Bríde was held in 1993 and has continued every year...imagine we will be celebrating our 30th Féile Bríde in the new year!

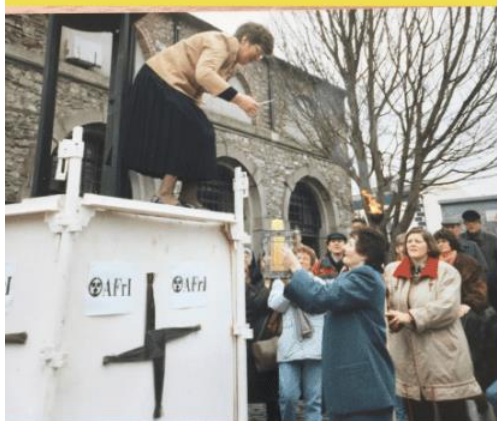
Our [Féile Bríde 2023 programme is now on our website](#) and there is a wide variety of events planned including some online offerings for those who cannot travel to Kildare.

Míle Buíochas

Solas Bhríde Team & Cairde Bhríde

# RE-LIGHTING THE BRIGID FLAME

KILDARE TOWN - FEB 1993



## FÉILE BRÍDE - THE BEGINNING

Féile Bríde has its roots dating back to an International Peace Conference organised by Afri (Action from Ireland) and the Brigidine Sisters in 1993. As part of the Peace Conference the Brigidine Sisters relit the St Brigid Flame in the Market Square of Kildare Town. Almost 30 Years later, this beacon of light for Hope, Justice and Peace still burns today and is tended by the Brigidine Sisters in the Solas Bhríde Spirituality Centre in Kildare Town.

Brigid's message of 'Hope, Justice and Peace' remains as vibrant and as relevant today as it was more than a thousand years ago. The annual Justice and Peace conference organised in collaboration with Afri is a core component of Féile Bríde. People come to Kildare at this time to speak about justice in the world or lack of it. The annual AFRI Conference is hosted at Solas Bhríde. We are very honoured that Joe Murray of Afri has contributed to our newsletter - read [his article here](#) on how the origins of Féile Bríde is rooted from the Peace Campaign and how relevant it is today.





# Féile Bríde 2023

**Brigid:**

Flame of Justice and Peace

January 31st to February 6th

Kildare Town, Co. Kildare

## **FÉILE BRÍDE - Festival of Brigid**

Féile Bríde is a week long festival celebrating Brigid and her relevance today. The Féile begins with a candlelit pilgrimage and ritual on the eve of St Brigid's Day at St Brigid's well.

Join us and the local community for this uplifting celebration with the emerging light and new beginnings at the dawn of spring. We look forward to welcoming you to Solas Bhríde in Kildare Town.

View our [full programme of events here](#).

## **KILDARE CALLS FOR A PAUSE FOR PEACE**

We are really excited that from 2023 onwards Ireland will celebrate a new annual national holiday in honour of St. Brigid, something we have long campaigned for. St. Brigid and the abbesses who succeeded her were renowned as peacemakers in early Ireland. To mark the National Holiday and as a fitting tribute to St. Brigid an invitation is being issued from Kildare, the heartland of St. Brigid to Pause for Peace. This is an initiative of Solas Bhríde and is supported by INTO Kildare and Brigid 1500.

We invite you to pause for one minute silence and send out peace from your heart to the people of the world on St. Brigid's Day. No matter where you are in the world, we invite you to stop and pause at 12 mid-day, your time. The Pause for Peace movement will be launched in early January.



St Brigid - A Woman, A Life, A Legacy

## BRIGID 1500

Our very own Rita Minehan csb is representing Solas Bhríde on the steering committee for Brigid 1500. The focus of the celebration is on St. Brigid - A Woman, A Life, A Legacy. A website [www.brigid1500.ie](http://www.brigid1500.ie) has been developed and will give constant updates on events.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us in Solas Bhríde for our final ritual of the year, 'The Winter Solstice' on 21st December. Experience the deep sense of community warmth and support at these events whilst nurturing your body, mind and spirit through physical movement and moments of stillness and peace.

[Book your place for The Winter Solstice](#)

## DATES FOR YOUR 2023 DIARY

**FEILE BRÍDE 2023:** Brigid, Flame of Justice & Peace will run from 31st January to 6th February 2023

**REKINDLING THE FLAME** official launch on February 26th 2023

**CONFERENCE ON ST BRIGID** is planned for 22nd April 2023

[More details coming soon](#)

**STAY IN TOUCH** by visiting our [website](#) and [our facebook page](#)

*"What you want to ignite in others must first burn in yourself" - St. Augustine*

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You can make a donation to help support the work of Solas Bhríde

[Donate Here](#)