

**This week marked the important Feast day of one of our three patron Saint's- St. Bridget, alongside St. Patrick and St. Colmcille.**

Lá Fhéile Bríde, on February 1st has long heralded renewal and the traditional start of spring in Ireland and as I write this piece, our own Castleknock daffodils currently line the avenue in bloom for this week's special Feast Day.

We began the day with creating a special 'St Brigid's' prayer space underneath the watchful eye of our beautiful painting of 'The adoration of our Lady with St. Patrick and St. Brigid.' A perfect and fitting location for all students and staff to view- just off the foyer and reception area.



St. Brigid hailed From Louth and was based in Kildare. She was known to be headstrong and holy, accomplished and multitalented. Born around AD 450, she had a long, productive and eventful life. This year marks the 1,500th anniversary of her death, and so as a result from Thursday and into the long weekend all around the country, plenty of events are lined up to celebrate her life and legacy. Please make sure to look up what is happening in your area and attend if you can these very worthy celebrations over the long weekend.



Luckily, the students and I were able to join in on some of the celebrations this week. On Thursday, our JPII Award students joined me at the *Solas Bhríde Centre*, Kildare as we partook in a 'St. Brigid cross making' workshop. It was hosted by the Brigidine sisters and it was a wonderful warm and hospitable occasion. The workshop was busy and was attended by a wide range of people including many Americans. The students and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and let's just say we were very eager to learn the art well as we were being tasked with returning to school to show some of the students in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year.



As part of our visit to Solas Bhríde, I brought the students to see the nearby St. Brigid's Holy Well – Tobar Bride. It was a beautiful sunny day to explore this ancient site. The site has an aura of ancientness. The well itself is fed by a spring



that flows underground before appearing again under a stone archway. The stones below the archway are known as St. Brigid's slippers. The stream then flows passed a modern bronze statue of St. Brigid. There was a rag tree nearby that displayed many cloths. Upon returning to school, we closed the day with facilitating 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year classes with making their own St. Brigid's crosses and then placing them on our special prayer space to our patroness.

As a whole school, all were led in a thoughtful St. Brigid's reflection to begin the day by one of our Ember students, followed by 1 mins of silence to mark the 'Pause for Peace' movement across the country and the word.

***Brigid***

***You were a woman of peace.***

***You brought harmony where there was conflict.***

***You brought light to the darkness.***

***You brought hope to the downcast.***

***May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious, and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.***

***Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all that God has made.***

***Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.***

***Strengthen what is weak within us.***

***Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.***

***May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.***

***AMEN***

