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1st February 24



You may be reading this on 1st February, St. Brigid's Day, or Lá Fhéile Bríde. The following text was shared by Global Action Plan, an organisation supporting environmental behaviour change.

In the Celtic tradition, 1st February marks the beginning of 'Imbolc', the ancient festival of Spring, celebrating new beginnings and new life. In the Christian era, this celebration of the wonder of Spring, when nature (in the Northern Hemisphere) wakes from its winter sleep, became the feast of St. Brigid, patroness of those who have a care for the Earth, for justice and equality, for peace and reconciliation. More recently, the feast day has also become a celebration of all women, their leadership, creativity and talents, and from 2023 onwards, is followed by an official holiday in Ireland.

St. Brigid is known, through many stories and legends, for her concern for the poor, her strong and gentle leadership, her skills as an organiser and healer, and her wisdom. In the stories, legends and poems about her, Brigid emerges as a woman of action. She is often depicted as a peacemaker who intervened in disputes between rival factions and brought healing and reconciliation. She is known to have had an active role in the running of her abbey and church, established in Kildare c.470 on the site now occupied by St Brigid's Cathedral. As Abbess, she presided over the local Church of Kildare and was leader of a double monastery for men and women.

Brigid of Kildare is said to have been acutely attuned to the seasons and cycles of nature, as was usual in her society of the 5th century AD, where agriculture and the forces of nature were ever-present in people's lives. Brigid and her contemporaries would have had great reverence and respect for the land and the forces of nature.

At present, nature is far less threatening to humans. Instead, nature has become fragile and polluted, and instead of bears, wolves or storms, humans now have to fear the damage they themselves have inflicted on nature: barren lands, polluted air, poisoned waters and damaged ecosystems.

Days like St. Brigid's Day can be occasions when we rediscover our love of our natural environment. We can use the Day to remember that people and nature do not exist in duality, where nature exists as separate from us, not linked to human activity. On St. Brigid's Day, we can embrace the idea that humans and their environment are interconnected in a deeply woven singularity – a complex web of mutual dependencies.

A Prayer shared by Revd Simon Topping, Methodist Church in Britian

God of love and grace, through your presence, you make all things holy, we celebrate the sacredness of your creation, the sacredness of all living things, the earth, the seas the skies. We acknowledge that the earth is yours, given as a common treasury for all. Grant us such openness to your presence, that we may treat this your planet with reverence, that we may respect its limits and boundaries, that we may share its goodness fairly and sustainably. God our creator, saviour and peace giver, teach us how to live in holy communion with you and with your world in Christ's name we pray.

Amen

8th February 24



Prayer of Gratitude for the Gift of Water - Columban Interreligious Dialogue

Creator God,

We give you thanks for your creation and everything in it.

Teach us to love and care for communities near and far.

Inspire us to always remember you and your precious gift of water.

May we recognize the blessedness in all the earth's water and strive to care for and protect it.

In your name we pray, Amen.

Valuing the Gift of Water

Daily water consumption in Dublin has reached 630 million litres, close to the limit of current production capacity. Irish Water are therefore appealing for water conservation. What can we do to reduce consumption? Here are a few tips from Frank Harvey:

- Reduce shower time by 60 seconds – this can save up to 120 litres of water every week.
- Make sure the tap is off while brushing teeth - 84 litres a week can be saved.
- Ensure washing machines and dishwashers are full before running - reducing washes in a washing machine by just one cycle a week can save 13 litres.
- Fix any leaking or dripping taps - a 6.4 mm leak from a tap at standard pressure can lose 25,000 litres in a week
- Keep a jug of water in the fridge rather than letting the tap run cold - this can save 6 litres a day.
- Have a basin handy when waiting for hot water to arrive at the kitchen tap – this can save up to 6 litres which can be used in the garden.

14th February 24

This message has been shared by Climate Stewards, part of the A Rocha family of organisations, caring for God’s creation around the world. They work with individuals, charities and churches to provide advice and support reducing carbon usage.

www.climatestewards.org

In the Bible, caring for creation is God’s first instruction to humans.

This Lent, a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God, we encourage you to take up our Lent challenge – living more simply and finding new ways to cut your carbon footprint.



The infographic features a stylized tree logo on the left and the title 'Carbon Fast for Lent' in green text. Below the title is a section titled 'LENT 2024 WEEKLY OVERVIEW' which lists seven weekly challenges. Each challenge is presented in a horizontal bar with a large number in a circle on the right side. The bars alternate between blue and green backgrounds. The challenges are: 1. Fast from Unawareness (Feb 14-18), 2. Fast from Silence (Feb 19-25), 3. Fast from Meat and Dairy (Feb 26-Mar 3), 4. Fast from Food Waste (Mar 4-10), 5. Fast from Driving (Mar 11-17), 6. Fast from Excessive Energy Use (Mar 18-24), and 7. Fast from Social Media (Mar 25-Mar 30).

Carbon Fast for Lent

LENT 2024 WEEKLY OVERVIEW

- FEB 14 - FEB 18**
FAST FROM UNAWARENESS
 - Expand your knowledge about climate issues
 - Watch a documentary, listen to a podcast, read a book
- FEB 19 - FEB 25**
FAST FROM SILENCE
 - Pray for creation
 - Talk about the climate crisis
 - Join a climate campaign group
- FEB 26 - MAR 3**
FAST FROM MEAT AND DAIRY
 - Go meat-free
 - Already vegetarian? Fast from dairy products
 - Already vegan? Cut down on desserts and sweets
- MAR 4 - MAR 10**
FAST FROM FOOD WASTE
 - Make a plan for using leftovers
 - Compost fruit and vegetable scraps
- MAR 11 - MAR 17**
FAST FROM DRIVING
 - Lift share, cycle, walk or take public transport
- MAR 18 - MAR 24**
FAST FROM EXCESSIVE ENERGY USE
 - Save energy by reducing consumption
 - Turn off appliances when not in use
 - Turn down the thermostat
- MAR 25 - MAR 30**
FAST FROM SOCIAL MEDIA
 - Find alternative activities, like a games night instead of streaming a movie
 - Get outside and enjoy creation
 - Log out of all social media for the week

21st February 24



A Sleeping World Emerges

*A sleeping world emerges to new possibilities,
weakening winter's icy grip,
and birdsong and bleating lamb
announce to all the promise
that in due season
creation bursts into life.*

*And whilst leaves that fell in winter
lie upon the ground,
soon to feed the earth,
in nature's wondrous cycle
of death and rebirth,
within the tree is a stirring of new growth.*

Shared by jesuitresource.org

28th February 24

If the Climate Comes Right

The abundance of Devil's Glen trees
tumble down the ravine
crows rake the storm with a riverine crash.

Seedpods, ash keys, sycamore wings,
seedlings in acorn cups swirl down
to wait for squirrel or bird

or boot-cleat to carry them clear.
These hedgehog-spined burrs
Will grow to a sweet-chestnut grove

to yield twenty years hence,
if the soil gets a good snap of frost,
if it doesn't heat up too early in spring.

if a flood doesn't sweep the topsoil away,
if crop spray doesn't drift on the wind,
if white catkins bloom,

if bees swarm to the pollen-rich flowers,
if the seas don't encroach,
if the climate comes right.

Screens show us forests on fire
a beach cut off by barbed wire,
landfall leaching into the bay.

Jettisoned nets tangle gullbone,
Shed feathers, seal-skull, rope, fish-kill,
Bleached wrack, driftwood, seaglass.

A fin whale blunders upriver to die,
a storm-addled seal hauls out
and births a white pup

on the urban foreshore.
We admire the weak creature -
such sorrowful eyes -deplore

the unseasonal weather, unaware
that the petrol we burn
and our gas-heated homes cause change

that can never come right.

*Brenda Wall Ryan – from Empty House: Poetry and Prose on the Climate Crisis,
Doire Press*