



# LÁ FHÉILE BRÍDE

Ag Ceiliúradh Cruthaitheachta na mBan

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## ST BRIGID'S DAY

Celebrating the Creativity of Women

## ST BRIGID'S FESTIVAL 2020

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30th January to 4th February

# Foreword by Ambassador Adrian O'Neill



We are delighted to announce that we will host a St Brigid's Day celebration at the Embassy on 30th January 2020 for the third year running. We are looking forward to welcoming extraordinary women to share their experiences and celebrate the day with us.

The event will be a part of the wider St Brigid's Day Festival in London again this year in collaboration with our friends and partners in the London Irish Centre, Irish Cultural Centre, and Irish Film London. We are thrilled to announce that this year we will also be partnering with the British Library and Poetry Ireland for a special event with Marie & Catherine Heaney in conversation with Maureen Kennelly of Poetry Ireland, which will conclude the Festival.

Brigid is extending her reach outside of London this year, with events taking place at Ireland's Consulates in Wales and Scotland. We're delighted that the Liverpool Irish Festival, the Birmingham Irish Association and the Irish Chaplaincy will also be hosting events to celebrate the day.

I hope that you will be able to join us in celebrating the enormous talent and creativity of women this spring.

**#StBrigidsDay**

# St Brigid's Festival London 2020

## Thursday 30 January

<b>Embassy of Ireland</b>	5.45pm – 10pm	Celebration of the Talent and Creativity of Women
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## Friday 31 January

<b>ICC Hammersmith</b>	6pm – 8pm	Launch of St Brigid's Art Exhibition: "Fáinleog"
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## Saturday 1 February

<b>ICC Hammersmith</b>	8pm	Celtic Music Extravaganza
<b>London Irish Centre</b>	7.30pm	St Brigid's Celebration: Intimate Performances from Powerful Irish Women

## Sunday 2 February

<b>Regent Street Cinema</b>	5.30pm	Female-led Irish short films
	7.30pm	London Premiere of <i>A Girl from Mogadishu</i>

## Monday 3 February

<b>London Irish Centre</b>	10am – 4pm	St Brigid's Day Workshops
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## Tuesday 4 February

<b>British Library</b>	7pm – 8.30pm	'Hard-pressed Brigid': A Conversation with Marie & Catherine Heaney, together with Maureen Kennelly
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# The Story of Brigid

The legend of the goddess Brigid begins in the mythology of pre-Christian Ireland, when she was known as the daughter of the chief of the gods, The Dagda. Brigid was a goddess in her own right and associated with healers, poets, smiths, childbirth and inspiration.

As Christianity spread through Ireland, the Celtic goddess Brigid shared her name with St Brigid of Kildare who was reputed to have mystical powers and performed miracles, including healing the sick. Her feast day on the 1st February

- originally a pagan festival called Imbolc - marked the beginning of spring. Each Brigid represents a strong and powerful femininity, which we celebrate each year at the start of spring.

The St Brigid's Day Festival London began in 2018 when we decided that it was time for St Patrick to share the limelight. St Brigid's Day seemed like the ideal occasion to celebrate the enormous creativity and talent of women and we are delighted that the day is now celebrated at Irish embassies and consulates worldwide.



# St Brigid's Day at the Embassy of Ireland

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17 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7HR

**Thursday 30th January | 5:45pm – 10pm**

We are welcoming guests to the Embassy for our annual St Brigid's Day celebration of the enormous talent & creativity of women from Ireland and beyond.

We will be hosting a variety of talks, performances and panel discussions on the evening of 30th January to showcase trailblazing women who are making their mark in diverse fields such as music, poetry, literature, science and technology, and diplomacy.

**An impressive array of talent will be on display in various spaces throughout our historic building with three sessions on the following themes:**

- Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Women in Diplomacy
- Women in Literature

Lá Fhéile Bríde celebrates the arrival of longer, warmer days, so please come and join us to say goodbye to winter and celebrate the traditional start of spring. For further information visit our website:

[www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/great-britain/news-and-events/st-brigids-day/st-brigids-day-2020.html](http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/great-britain/news-and-events/st-brigids-day/st-brigids-day-2020.html)

# Irish Cultural Centre, Hammersmith

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5 Black's Road, Hammersmith, London W6 9DT

**Friday 31st January | 6pm – 8pm**

Launch of St Brigid's Art Exhibition: 'Fáinleog'

Working in Ireland and Europe three graduates from the National College of Art and Design endeavour to bring an energy of the spirit of Ireland inspired by the St Brigid of the past and the present to the Irish Cultural Centre, London with a new art exhibition.

Laura O'Hagan's medium extends from clay sculpture to large-scale mosaics, working mainly to commission and as an educator. Amongst other esteemed scholarships and involvements, Frances Breen is also a member of the editorial team for *An Leabhar Mór/ The Great Book of Gaelic*. Eve Parnell has established an international career as a highly accomplished artist.

With support from Culture Ireland, the Embassy of Ireland and the Irish Cultural Centre.



Laura O'Hagan's 'Growing Up'  
10m h x 3m hand painted mosaic  
and sculpted clay forms

**Saturday 1st February | 8pm – 10.30pm**

## Celtic Music Extravaganza

To celebrate St Brigid's Day, the Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith will host a Celtic music extravaganza of some of Ireland and the UK's finest female musicians. The London Lasses and the Friel Sisters will be joined by special guests Mairéad Ní Mhoonaigh and Nia Byrne on Saturday 1st February for an evening of craic agus ceol!

Tickets: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-london-lasses-the-friel-sisters-plus-mairead-ni-mhoanaigh-nia-byrne-tickets-88106423685](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-london-lasses-the-friel-sisters-plus-mairead-ni-mhoanaigh-nia-byrne-tickets-88106423685)





# Irish Film London

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Regent Street Cinema, 307 Regent Street,  
London, W1B 2HW

## Mother and Baby Irish Film Screenings

The St Brigid's Day festivities kick off with a city-wide collaboration, drawing various cinemas together to mark the week leading up to 1st February by scheduling short films, originated by Irish women, during their mother and baby screenings.

These sessions are designed for mothers with babies, who are made to feel comfortable to breastfeed or to soothe their babies as necessary. Please check [www.irishfilmlondon.com](http://www.irishfilmlondon.com) for participating cinemas' details.

## Sunday 2nd February | 5pm

### Female-Led Irish Short Films

IFL will celebrate some of Ireland's finest female filmmakers, both behind and in front of the camera, with this curated selection of short films.



Clancie Brennan's *Who's the Daddy*



**Sunday 2nd February | 7.30pm**

London Premiere of *A Girl From Mogadishu*

2019 / Ire/Bel / 110 mins / Drama

Finally, IFL brings to London the London Premiere screening of *A Girl From Mogadishu*. Directed by Mary McGuckian, this drama is based on the true testimony of Ifrah Ahmed, who escaped war-torn Somalia to Ireland in 2006.

There she emerged as one of the world's foremost international activists against gender-based violence. Ahmed established the United Youth of Ireland, a non-governmental organisation for young immigrants, and the Ifrah Foundation, which is devoted to eliminating female genital mutilation.



A Q&A will follow the screening with the film's director, Mary McGuckian, and special guests, hosted by internationally renowned social activist and founder of Dahlia Project, Leyla Hussein OBE.

# London Irish Centre

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50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB

**Saturday 1st February | 7:30pm**

St Brigid's Celebration:

Intimate Performances from Powerful Irish Women



Join us in welcoming spring with a celebration of powerful Irish female talent as part of the Irish Embassy's St Brigid's Day Festival.

Led by Tara Flynn, this night of six musical, comedy, and spoken word performances is the perfect way to wave goodbye to winter and look forward to the year ahead with some of the most creative and talented female performers Ireland has to offer.

Tickets: [www.londonirishcentre.org](http://www.londonirishcentre.org)

**Monday 3 February | 10am – 4pm**

St Brigid's Day Workshops

London Irish Centre's Kennedy Hall will have its Day Centre activities focused on a string of workshops, including St Brigid's cross making, Irish bread baking, singing circles, as well as lunch.

# Other St Brigid's Events

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## Consulate of Ireland, Cardiff

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Temple of Peace, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff,  
CF10 3AP

**Friday 31st January | 6.30pm – 9pm**

On Friday, 31st January join the Consulate of Ireland, Cardiff, in celebrating the talent and creativity of women on St Brigid's Day. The traditional feast day of St Brigid is on 1 February and in Ireland marks the beginning of spring and a time for reflection, renewal and celebration.

We look forward to welcoming you for an evening of conversation and music with talented women from various walks of life.

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## Consulate of Ireland, Edinburgh

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Glasgow Women's Library, 23 Landressy St,  
Glasgow, G40 1BP

**Friday 31st January | 6pm – 8.30pm**

The Consulate General of Ireland is delighted to partner with the Celtic Media Festival to present a Brigid's Day celebration at the Glasgow Women's Library on the evening of 31st January. The evening will feature a discussion with women in the media and a few good tunes!

[@irlscotland](#)

# Birmingham Irish Association

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**Macdonald Burlington Hotel, 126 New Street,  
Birmingham B2 4JQ**

**Thursday 30th January | 6:30pm**

On Thursday 30th January the Birmingham Irish Association will hold its inaugural celebration of St Brigid's Day at the Macdonald Burlington Hotel. The event will celebrate the creativity of women from the Irish community alongside women from the city's other cultures.

A planned evening of music and discussion will take place, with a fine ensemble of some strong Irish figures in the community including Catherine O'Flynn (Author) and Jo Enright (Comedian). We hope that this first event will be a great start for the Birmingham Irish's calendar in 2020.

Email: [andrew@birminghamirish.org.uk](mailto:andrew@birminghamirish.org.uk)

The Birmingham Irish Association are also celebrating the contribution of Trailblazing Irish Women with a conference and Equality Panel Discussion on 30th January 2020, 5.00 – 6.20 pm, at Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, Birmingham.

Email [Caroline.Brogan@IrwinMitchell.com](mailto:Caroline.Brogan@IrwinMitchell.com) for further details.







# Irish Chaplaincy

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St James' Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL

**Friday 31st January | 6:30pm**

On the eve of St Brigid's Day the Irish Chaplaincy will host a celebration of Irish music, poetry and dancing with the London Celtic Youth Orchestra and a wealth of other performers at St James' Church.

Tickets: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/irish-chaplaincy-concert-january-2020-tickets-80636892115](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/irish-chaplaincy-concert-january-2020-tickets-80636892115)

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# Liverpool Irish Festival

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Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX

**Saturday 1st February | 2pm – 3.15pm**

On the afternoon of Saturday 1st February the Liverpool Irish Festival will host a screening of *Liverpool Family Ties: The Irish Connection*, a documentary about Black and Irish, Chinese and Irish and diaspora-Irish women living in the city, filmed by Mersey-based artists and oral historians John J. Campbell and Moira Kenny.

For more information visit: [www.liverpoolirishfestival.com/events/family-ties](https://www.liverpoolirishfestival.com/events/family-ties)





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