

LOUTH: BIRTHPLACE OF BRIGID

Tradition holds that Faughart, Co. Louth is the birthplace of Ireland's iconic matron Saint Brigid.

The Annals of Ulster record Saint Brigid as being born in 452 and the five Latin Lives of Saint Brigid contain lists of miracles carried out by the saint in a life dedicated to God and helping the poor, needy and oppressed. Saint Brigid is strongly associated with healing, fertility, poetry, care of the land and animals, abundance and the coming of Spring.

The saint has the same name as the pre-Christian Goddess Brigid, meaning 'exalted one' in old Irish, and described as a goddess of poets, woman of wisdom, protector of the land and source of new life and re-birth at springtime.

Since 2023 a Public Holiday takes place in Ireland each February in honour of Saint Brigid. The year 2024 marks the 1500th anniversary of the Saint's death and this trailblazing holy woman will be celebrated all over Ireland and further afield with events throughout the year.

Traditional Saint Brigid's Cross



Louth County Council,
Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland

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FREE MAP & GUIDE

BRIGID'S TRAIL

A trail to mark the
trailblazing Saint's
legacy in Louth

#visitlouth
#birthplaceofbrigid
www.visitlouth.ie/explore-and-do

Images courtesy of: Tourism Ireland, SEEK Dundalk, Brigid of Faughart Festival and Louth County Museum.

We would like to acknowledge the Brigid of Faughart Festival and Cllr. John Reilly for information provided.

VISIT
LOUTH



IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®
Wander Through Time

1

BRIGID OF FAUGHART MURAL



**BRIDGE STREET,
DUNDALK, CO.
LOUTH, A91 K126**

This mural was created in 2020 by artist Friz as part of the SEEK Dundalk Festival, and was inspired by Brigid of Faughart, Goddess and Saint.

Brigid has been a central part of the spiritual landscape and story of Ireland from the megalithic era, through Celtic times

into the coming of Christianity. This powerful mural perfectly illustrates the two aspects of Brigid, Celtic Goddess of poetry, fertility, and healing; and Christian abbess and saint.

SEEK Walking Tours take place on the first Friday of every month at 11.30am and are a fun way to find out more about the artists and their techniques, while discovering the stories behind the incredible murals which capture Dundalk's rich history and heritage. Booking is essential, please contact Dundalk Tourist Office on +353 42 9352111 (Private group tours are also available on request - minimum of 5 people required).

 Tour Duration: 1 hour 30 mins

 Paid On-Street Car Parking.



FIND OUT MORE



2

THE HILL OF FAUGHART



**FAUGHART
UPPER,
DUNDALK,
CO. LOUTH**

The Hill of Faughart is a fascinating hidden gem and probably one of the most historic sites in County Louth.

Just a short drive from Dundalk, it sits on the boundary between Leinster and Ulster. This historic site is a place of peace and tranquility with wonderful views over Dundalk Bay and across to the Cooley Mountains.

Faughart is the traditional birthplace of Saint Brigid, Ireland's iconic matron saint and the hill contains the ruins of a 12th century church, an ancient graveyard, Saint Brigid's Holy Well, Saint Brigid's Pillar, possibly the base for a high cross and Saint Brigid's Bed, a horse-shoe shaped enclosure which may have been a small building and was used until recent times as a penitential station.


The graveyard is a site of pilgrimage all year round, but particularly at the feast day of Saint Brigid on February 1st, when people come from far and wide to pray, honour the saint, leave an offering on the Well Tree and collect water from Saint Brigid's Well.



The strategic location of the Hill of Faughart, commanding views south to

Dundalk and the Plain of Muirthemne, east to the Cooley Peninsula and north to the famous Gap of the North and majestic Slieve Gullion Mountain, has given it an added archaeological and historical significance. It is a meeting place of history, mythology, religion and ritual, and was a place of settlement long before Saint Brigid's birth in the fifth century.

GPS: 54.051072, -6.383833

 Visit Duration: We recommend planning to spend 30 - 40 minutes here.

 Free Car Parking.



FIND OUT MORE

3

SAINT BRIGID'S SHRINE

**MONASCREEBE,
FAUGHART UPPER,
DUNDALK, CO. LOUTH,
A91 Y771**

Just a short drive from the Hill of Faughart is one of County Louth's iconic sites, Saint Brigid's Shrine at Faughart.


In 1934 Faughart was chosen by Cardinal Mac Rory as the National Shrine of Saint Brigid for the whole of Ireland. The first national pilgrimage took place on the first Sunday of July 1934 with an attendance of 10,000 people, including two Irish presidents, Eamon de Valera and T.K O'Reilly.

The Shrine is a place of tranquil beauty. A series of modern Stations of the Cross run along Sruth Bhríde, Saint Brigid's Stream, from the upper part of the Shrine, through a beautiful glade of towering beech trees and across the road to the lower part of the Shrine. This is



where you will find the very ancient stone stations, which are believed to have healing powers. These include the Head Stone, the Knee Stone, the Waist Stone and the Back Stone.

The Shrine attracts thousands of visitors throughout the year and an annual candlelit procession runs from the nearby Hill of Faughart down to Saint Brigid's Shrine on her Feast Day, 1st February. This was also the ancient Celtic Festival of Imbolc, the start of Spring in the Celtic calendar.

 Visit Duration: We recommend planning to spend 1 to 1.5 hours here.

 Free Car Parking.



FIND OUT MORE

4

SAINT BRIGID CROSS COLLECTION



**COUNTY MUSEUM,
8 JOCELYN STREET,
DUNDALK, CO. LOUTH,
A91 TW22**

The County Museum, Dundalk is located in a beautifully restored late 18th century warehouse in the heart of Dundalk.



The Museum chronicles the historical development of County Louth, from the Stone Age up to the present, through a combination of artefacts and computer interactives presented over three galleries of permanent exhibitions. This includes a magnificent collection of crosses inspired by Saint Brigid which are on display in the museum all year round.




**SAINT BRIGID OF
IRELAND MUSEUM
EXHIBITION**

The Saint Brigid of Ireland Exhibition runs from January 27th to February 29th, 2024. This beautiful exhibition celebrates the life and achievement of one of our greatest saints. It highlights her roots in both pagan and Christian traditions and her interests - in areas as diverse as dairy farming, beekeeping, the creative arts, fugitives, and infants - which remain relevant to this day.

Open: Tuesday - Saturday from 10am - 5pm
(Closed for lunch 1pm - 2pm)

Closed: Sundays, Mondays & Bank Holidays

Admission: Free

 Visit Duration: We recommend planning to spend 1 to 1.5 hours here.

 Paid Car Parking



FIND OUT MORE

ARMAGH

DOWN



M1

RAVENSDALE

WARRENPOINT

OMEATH

CARLINGFORD LOUGH

CARLINGFORD

BALLYMASCANLON

GYLES QUAY

TEMPLETOWN

BLACKROCK

3

2

1

4

SAINT BRIGID'S SHRINE

HILL OF FAUGHART

BRIGID OF FAUGHART MURAL

DUNDALK

SAINT BRIGID CROSS COLLECTION

MUSEUM

CASTLEBLAYNEY

N53

ARDEE

DROGHEDA

N52

NEWRY

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Brigid of Faughart Mural
A91 K126



Saint Brigid's Shrine
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Saint Brigid Cross Collection
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