

Féile Bríde

25
years
2017

Darkness to Light

Drawing by Audrey Walsh



Saturday February 4th

Solas Bhríde Centre, Kildare Town

Gathering at Brigid's Well – at 10.30am (weather permitting)

Adjacent to Irish National Stud

REGISTRATION at 11am

Organized by Afri in partnership with St. Patrick's Kiltegan,
the Spiritan Community and Cairde Bríde



Afri

INTRODUCTION

For 25 years now, the Féile Bríde light has been lit, shone, carried and cradled. It has illuminated many subjects and themes since 1993. In the course of this quarter-century, Ireland has changed and the world has changed – sometimes for the better, sometimes not.

But the themes of war and climate change leading to the forced migration of people, unfortunately, remain as relevant as ever. How can we transform this vicious circle of darkness into a virtuous circle of light? This question will form the basis of Féile Bríde 2017.

There are many examples of transformation at work. We see it in the presence of the Brigidines and Cairde Bríde in Kildare; in the residents and activists demanding justice for homeless people in Apollo House; in the persons of those peace activists like Dave Donnellan and Colm Roddy who refuse to allow the business of war to become ‘business as usual’ at Shannon airport; in those who keep on tackling the causes of climate change and taking positive and practical action to reverse it; and in our speakers at this year’s conference.

While the military are dedicated to the business of war, Kathy Kelly has dedicated her life uncompromisingly to peace. Her steadfast commitment has seen her arrested more than 60 times. It has led her, ironically but appropriately, to many war zones around the world where she has witnessed at first hand the real meaning of ‘shock and awe’ for those innocent people on whom the bombs are dropping. Kathy Kelly is a beacon of light for our world today.

Alastair McIntosh measures his work against the fundamental question: ‘does it give life?’ Those enlightening works include the timely and influential *Soil and Soul: People versus Corporate Power*, which cuts to the core of much current conflict and upheaval.

Finally, we will hear from the most urgent and compelling voices of all – those who have been pushed out of their life cycle, their homeland, who have been wrenched from the soil of their ancestors as a result of war and climate change. They have been labelled ‘refugees’, ‘asylum seekers’, ‘residents of direct provision centres’. They are, instead, brothers and sisters, forced to flee their homes, like our Irish ancestors during An Gorta Mór, by the forces of corporate greed and political ruthlessness.

We will continue day by day, together with the vast majority of people, to move away from the cycle of darkness towards a circle of light, of peace, and of welcome for the stranger, and a circle of deepening respect for our shared planet home.

- Joe Murray

CLÁR

10.30am	Gathering at the Well (adjacent to Irish National Stud)
11am	Registration
11.30am	Arrival of Flame, fáilte, music and reflections on 25 years of Féile Bríde with Brigidine sister Rita Minehan and Joe Murray
11.45pm	Turn back the Streams of War - Alastair McIntosh
1.15pm	Lunch and tree planting
2.05pm	Other Lands Have Dreams Too – Kathy Kelly
3.15pm	Resisting War Through Faith in Action - Dave Donnellan
3.30pm	Tea break
3.45pm	The Experiences of Refugees/Asylum Seekers in Ireland
4.15pm	<i>Music</i>
4.30pm	Conclude



BIOGRAPHIES:

Alaistair McIntosh holds a PhD from the Academy of Irish Cultural Heritages at the University of Ulster. He is a visiting professor at the University of Glasgow, and an Honorary Fellow of the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh. A Quaker of Presbyterian provenance, his best known books include *Soil and Soul* on land reform, and *Hell and High Water* on climate change.

Kathy Kelly is a U.S. peace activist, pacifist and author, one of the founding members of Voices in the Wilderness, and currently a co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence. As part of peace team work in several countries, she has traveled to Iraq twenty-six times, notably remaining in combat zones during the early days of both US-Iraq wars. Her recent travel has focused on Afghanistan and Gaza, along with domestic protests against U.S. drone policy. She has been arrested more than sixty times at home and abroad, and written of her experiences among targets of U.S. military bombardment and inmates of U.S. prisons.

Dave Donnellan has worked for many years as a video producer. His latest documentary, 'The Pink Crocodile', on the LGBT community in East Timor, was recently broadcast on RTE 1. He is also a Peace Activist. Along with Colm Roddy he was part of a peace action at Shannon Airport in May of 2016, an action which is still before the courts, and he works in the area of adult faith education with Partners in Faith.

This event is organized in partnership with St. Patrick's Missionary Society Kiltegan the Spiritan Community and Cairde Bríde.

Feile Bríde is part of a week-long series of events taking place in Kildare organized by the Brigidine Sisters and Cairde Bríde.

Further information can be found here:

<http://solasbhríde.ie/events/-feile-bríde-2017-programme/>



The Community Foundation for Ireland

Afri wishes to acknowledge the support of Irish Aid, Concern, Community Foundations Ireland #Belonging 16 and Trócaire.



134 Phibsborough Road, Dublin 7, D07 V882

Tel: +353 (0)1 882 7563/7581

Email: admin@afri.ie

www.afri.ie Facebook: [afriireland](https://www.facebook.com/afriireland) Twitter: [@afripeace](https://twitter.com/afripeace)