

# February 2022 Columbine



*It's been a dull cold start to the year but as the days lengthen there is a promise of spring. Birdsong fills the early morning, drifts of snowdrops cloak the lanes and there have been some spectacular sunrises and sunsets.*

*We need to pray that we all can experience joy, hope, peace and good health wherever we live in this troubled world. Let's pray especially at this time for peace between Russia and Ukraine.*

**Jan and Kathy**



## Local Foodbank FIND are asking for donations of the following items:

- Tins of carrots, mixed veg, peas, rice pudding, fruit.
- Cereals and rice, long life milk (whole and semi) and any fresh fruit.
- They always need bags for life carrier bags and others to wrap vegetables etc.



Collection points in Capel at the Co-op, Methodist Church and St. Mary's and at St. Mark's in Chantry

- On page 2 The story of Our Lady of Las Lajas
- On page 3 Profiles of St. Brigid and St. Blaise
- On page 4 some photos from the baptism of Mandy and Damian Hearne's grandson, Dylan and a few jokes.

## Ecumenical dates for your diary:

**Churches Together in Capel**  
service Sunday Feb 27<sup>th</sup>  
6.30pm at Capel Methodist Church

**April 9<sup>th</sup> First pilgrimage walk** to Our Lady of Grace Shrine at St. Mary Elms, Ipswich, starting from St. Mary's, Capel. More details in March Columbine.



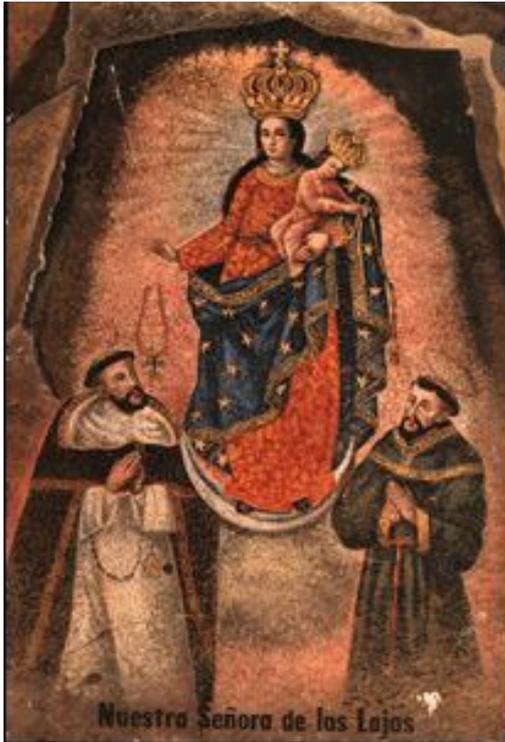
## Our Lady's message on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2022

"Dear children! Today I am calling you to return to personal prayer. Little children, do not forget that satan is strong and that he wants to attract all the more souls to himself. That is why, you be vigilant in prayer and resolute in the good. I am with you and am blessing all of you with my Motherly Blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call."

## Our beloved dead

Marjorie McCarthy	4 Feb 2012
Pat Gallagher	7 Feb 82
Frank Keegan	7 Feb 77
Anne Hearne	18 Feb 99
Maureen McCarthy	20 Feb 78
Mabel Willett	20 Feb 94
John Chapman	23 Feb 2015

## Our Lady of Las Lajas



There are many amazing incidents involving apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary related throughout history. One of the most astonishing events involves a little known apparition, Our Lady of Las Lajas - a miracle that can still be witnessed today on a cliff face of Guaitara Canyon in Colombia, South America.

In 1754 a woman named Maria Mueses de Quinones was travelling from her home in the village of Potosi to the neighbouring village of Ipiales, which was about 6 miles away. The trail had turned down into the gorge formed by the Guaitara River when Maria was caught in a sudden squall. She did not like this shadowy and overgrown place, for she, like all the natives, believed the grotto known as Las Lajas (The Rocks) was inhabited by the devil. However, despite her fears, Maria was soon forced by the violence of the storm to take refuge there.

Making the Sign of the Cross and invoking the aid of the Blessed Virgin, Maria peered fearfully into the darkness as she stepped into the cave. Surrounded by the awful darkness she felt someone, or something, moving directly behind her. Then she felt a finger begin tapping her insistently on the shoulder. Certain it was the devil himself, Maria fled back out into the raging storm.

Maria had a young daughter named Rosa, who had been a deaf-mute since birth. Sometime later, returning home from Ipiales, Maria was carrying Rosa on her back on the way to their village when she was suddenly overcome by exhaustion. Unable to go any further, she sat down and rested on a large stone near the grotto, setting down the child. The little girl suddenly spoke "Mommy, look at the mestiza who has detached herself from the rock with a little boy in her arms and two little mestizos at her side!" Maria picked up the child and fled. Mestiza means someone of mixed race - Spanish and native Indian.

Even though Maria was still suspicious of the grotto, she would bring her daughter Rosa back from time to time to leave flowers or candles in thanksgiving, but she didn't talk about what had happened. One day Rosa disappeared. Maria searched for her daughter everywhere, but could not find the little girl. She found her at the grotto and saw Rosa playing with an extraordinarily handsome boy of her own age. Watching over them both was a magnificent queen. Maria knew at once it was the Christ child and Mary, His purest Mother. She was overcome with joy.

Returning to the village, again Maria told no-one what had happened. However her joy soon turned to sadness as little Rosa soon became sick and died. Overwhelmed with grief, Maria returned to the grotto carrying in her arms the lifeless body of her little Rosa. Maria prayed with confidence for her daughter's life. Rosa drew breath and opened her eyes to look up at her mother. It was as if she had only been asleep.

Word of this new miracle spread quickly, and many of the local people joined the next day in a procession with their priests in order to give thanks at the site of the apparition. When they arrived at the grotto they were all stunned to witness a brilliant portrait none had ever seen or heard of before. Imprinted on the face of the cliff was an image of the Blessed Virgin holding her infant Son in her arms. On one side is an image of Saint Dominic and on the other is Saint Francis of Assisi. Mary is extending her hand toward Saint Dominic, holding a Rosary. The Holy Infant holds a Franciscan cord which he appears to be giving to Saint Francis. The spiritual sons of these two holy saints were responsible for the conversion of the people of Central and South America.

In 1954 a scientific analysis found that the image permeates the rock, extending several feet into the mountainside. No human hand could have created it. The golden crowns were added later by local people. A church was built around the grotto in the early 1900s and is now a basilica. (Information from [www.roman-catholic-saints.com](http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com))



## St Brigid February 1st



**St. Brigid of Ireland** (also spelt **Brigit** or **Bridget**,) died around 525 in Kildare. She is one of the patron saints of Ireland.

Little is known of her life except from legend, and folklore. According to these, she was born of a noble father and a slave mother and was sold along with her mother to a druid, whom she later converted to Christianity. On being set free, she returned to her father, who tried to marry her to the king of Ulster. Impressed by her piety, the king removed her from parental control. At Kildare she founded the first nunnery in Ireland. The community became a double abbey for monks and nuns, with the abbess ranking above the abbot. Her friend St. Conleth became, at Brigid's beckoning, bishop of her people. She is said to have been active in founding other convents of nuns.

St. Brigid appears in a wealth of literature, notably the *Book of Lismore*, the *Breviarium Aberdonense*, and *Bethada Náem n-Érenn*. One of the loveliest and most gently profound legends of Brigid is the story of Dara, the blind nun, for the restoration of whose sight Brigid prayed. When the miracle was granted, Dara realized that the clarity of sight blurred God in the eye of the soul, whereupon she asked Brigid to return her to the beauty of darkness. Brigid is also said to have miraculously changed water into beer for a leper colony and provided enough beer for 18 churches from a single barrel; she is sometimes considered to be one of the patron saints of beer.

**Brigid's feast day is observed as far away from Ireland as Australia and New Zealand . In early times she was celebrated in parts of Scotland and England converted by Celtic churchmen. The church of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, London, is dedicated to her.**

## St Blaise Feast 3rd February and died 316

Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebastea and a doctor. The first known record of the saint's life comes from the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, where he is recorded as helping patients suffering from objects stuck in their throat. Many of the miraculous aspects of St. Blaise's life are written in the "Acts of St. Blaise, 400 years after his martyrdom.

Saint Blaise is believed to have begun as a healer then, eventually, became a "physician of souls." He then retired to a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to Saint Blaise for healing miracles. In 316, the governor of Cappadocia and of Lesser Armenia, Agricola, arrested then-bishop Blaise for being a Christian. On their way to the jail, a woman set her only son, who was choking to death on a fish bone. Blaise cured the child, and, though Agricola was amazed, he could not get Blaise to renounce his faith. Agricola beat Blaise with a stick and tore at his flesh with iron combs before beheading him. In another tale, Blaise was being led to the prison in Sebastea, and on the way came across a poor old woman whose pig had been stolen by a wolf. Blaise commanded the wolf return the pig, which it did - alive and uninjured - to the amazement of all. When he reached Sebastea, the woman came to him and brought two fine wax candles in an attempt to dispel the gloom of his darkened cell. In the Middle Ages, Blaise became quite popular and his legend as a beast tamer spread. He was then referred to as the "saint of the wild beast. There is a Saint Blaise's Well in Kent, and the water is believed to have medicinal properties. A Blessing of the Throats ceremony is held every February 3 at Saint Etheldreda's Church in London and Balve, Germany.



Saint Blaise is often depicted holding two crossed candles in his hand, or in a cave with wild animals. He is also often shown with steel combs. The similarity of the steel combs and the wool combs made a large contribution to Saint Blaise's leadership as the patron saint of wool combers and the wool trade.

## Baptism of Dylan Hearne at St. Mary's Capel St. Mary

The baptism of Dylan Hearne took place at St. Mary's Capel in January, after many delays due to the pandemic. Amongst the guests are family and friends of parents Ellie and Ben plus Dylan's big sister Heidi.

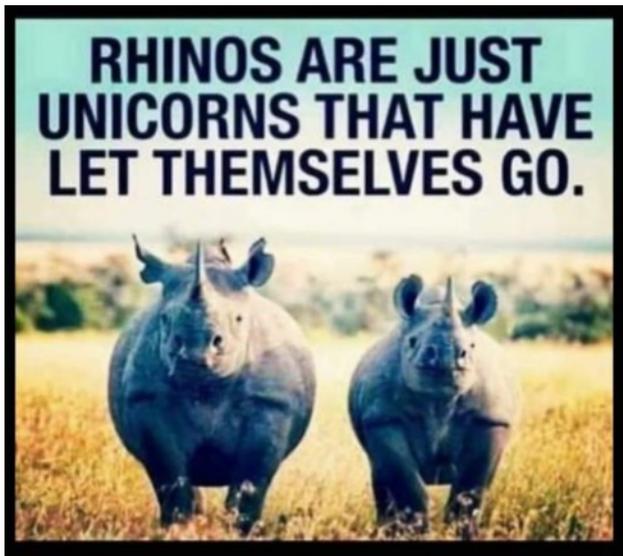
### A baptismal prayer for Dylan:

Take this little one dear Father into your loving arms. Cover and protect him, guide him from all harm. Fill his days with love and joy, nurture all he is. Help him as he learns and grows to feel loved and set apart. Speak to him of truth and light, so that his soul can sing, a cry of praise, a song of joy, and a love for peaceful things. Take his little hands dear God and bless him as he prays. Let a beautiful love story begin on this his baptism day.

(a baptism prayer poem from [www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com))



## February smiles!



**And our quote of the month:**  
**I'm so old I've stopped buying green bananas!**