

Filii Scottorum et filiae regulorum monachi et uirgines Christi

Excepto uno patris mei Coguitose

Haec est Maria quam vidi

Cain gein cain orrdan iartain dodoticfa diu genelgib clann. Condingertar dia mor-buadaib Brig-eoit fhir-diada. Bid ala-maire-Choimded mathair.

Tírechán 16. (1) Plantauit aecessiam super Vadum Segi et alteram aecessiam Cinnena(e) sancta(e) super Vadum Carnoi i mBoind et altera super Coirp raithe et altera super fossam Dallbronig, quam tenuit episcopus filius Cairtin, auunculus Brigtae sanctae. (2) Fundauitque alteram in campo Echredd, alteram in campo Taidni, quae dicitur Cell Bile (apud familiam Scire est), alteram in campo Echnach, in qua fuit Cassanus praespiter, (3) alteram in Singitibus, alteram in campo Bili iuxta Vadum Capitis Canis, alteram in Capite Carmelli in campo Teloch, in qua sancta Brigita pallium cepit sub manibus filii Caille in Huisniuch Midi.

29. (1) Franci uero Patricii exierunt a Patricio uiri fratres quindecim cum sorore una. Nomina quoque uirorum nolo dicere nisi duo principes Bernicius et Hernicius episcopi, et sororis nomen Nitria; (2) et multi loci illis dati sunt, et ignoro nisi unum, in quo est Basilica Sanctorum,

24. (1) Et uenit apud se filia felix in perigrinationem nomine Mathona soror Benigni successoris Patricii, quae tenuit pallium apud Patricium et Rodanum; (2) monacha fuit illis et exiit per montem filiorum Ailello et plantauit aecessiam liberam hi Tamnuch | et honorata fuerat a Deo et hominibus et ipsa fecit amicitiam ad reliquias sancti Rodani et successores illius epulabantur ad inuicem.

(15) Et baptizatae sunt +et candida ueste+ in capitibus earum. Et postulauerunt uidere faciem Christi, et dixit eis sanctus: 'Nisi mortem gustaueritis, non potestis uidere faciem Christi, et nisi sacrificium accipietis.' (16) Et responderunt: 'Da nobis sacrificium, ut possimus Filium, nostrum sponsum, uidere', et acciperunt eucharitiam Dei et dormierunt in morte, et posuerunt illas in lectulo uno uestimentis coopertas, et fecerunt ululatum | et planctum magnum amici earum.

(4) Et exiit ad campum Tochuir et fecit aecessiam ibi, et in quo loco quidam episcopus uenit de genere Corcu Theimne ad eum de cellola Toch in regione Temenrigi i Ceru contra solis occasum, episcopus cum sorore una, monachi Patricii, et est locus eorum cum familia Clono et ingemescent uiri loci illius.

37. (1) Et exiit ad fontem Stringille in disertis et fuit super ipso duobus dominicis et exiit ad campum Raithin et exiit ad *firu* Humail du Achud Fobuir, in quo fiunt episcopi; (2) et uenit ad illum sancta filia, quae pallium tenuit apud Patricium, et ordinauit filium patris illius Senachus et dedit nomen nouum illi .i. est Agnus Dei, et episcopum fecit illum. --

Liber Angeli (15) In ista uero urbe Alti Machæ homines Christiani utriusque sexus relegiiosi ab initio fidei hucusque pene inseparabiliter commorari uidentur, cui uero praedictae tres ordines adherent uirgines et poenitentes (et) in matrimonio legitimo aecessiae seruientes. (16) Et his tribus ordinibus audire uerbum praedicationis in aecessia aquilonalis plagae conceditur semper diebus dominicis, in australi uero basilica aepiscopi et praesbiteri | et anchoritae aecessiae et caeteri relegiiosi laudes sapidas offerunt.

VITA PRIMA SANCTAE BRIGITAE

2 Then a holy man at the synod saw a vision in his sleep and when he got up said, 'I have seen Mary and a certain man standing beside her who said to me. "This is holy Mary who has been dwelling among you."'

3 No sooner had the holy man related this at the synod than the widow accompanied by saint Brigit arrived on the scene. Whereat the holy man said, 'This is Mary whom I saw, for I clearly recognize her features.' Thereupon they all glorified her as a type of Mary.

4. So, she continued to grow in outstanding virtue and as countless people of both sexes drawn by the fame of her good deeds flocked to her from every province throughout the whole of Ireland and pledged their vows to her, she built her monastery on the plains of Mag Liffe on the firm foundation of faith. It is the head of almost all the Irish Churches with supremacy over all the monasteries of the Irish and its *paruchia* extends over the whole land of Ireland, reaching from sea to sea.

5. And as by her wise administration she made provision in every detail for the souls of her people according to the rule, as she vigilantly watched over the Churches attached to her in many provinces and as she reflected that she could not be without a high priest to consecrate churches and confer ecclesiastical orders in them, she sent for Conleth, a famous man and a hermit endowed with every good disposition through whom God wrought many miracles, and calling him from the wilderness and his life of solitude, she set out to meet him, in order that he might govern the Church with her in the office of bishop and that her Churches might lack nothing as regards priestly orders.

there are three chapels which are spacious and divided by board walls under the single roof of the cathedral church. The first of these walls, which is painted with pictures and covered with wall-hangings, stretches widthwise in the east part of the church from one wall to the other. In it there are two doors, one at either end, and through the door situated on the right, one enters the sanctuary to the altar where the archbishop offers the Lord's sacrifice together with his monastic chapter and those appointed to the sacred mysteries. Through the other door, situated on the left side of the aforesaid cross-wall, only the abbess and her nuns and faithful widows enter to partake of the banquet of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

3. The second of these walls divides the floor of the building into two equal parts and stretches from the west wall to the wall running across the church. This church contains many windows and one finely wrought portal on the right side through which the priests and the faithful of the male sex enter the church, and a second portal on the left side through which the nuns and congregation of women faithful are accustomed to enter. And so, in one vast basilica, a large congregation of people of varying status, rank, sex and local origin, with partitions placed between them, prays to the omnipotent Master, differing in status, but one in spirit.

3 Then the holy bishop Mel placed the veil on saint Brigit's head and when the prayers had been read Brigit bowed her head and seized the wooden foot of the altar in her hand and since that moment the altar foot has permanently remained fresh without any decay or blemish. And saint Brigit's eye was healed forthwith when she received the veil.

4 Then eight other virgins also received the veil together with saint Brigit and the virgins with their parents said, 'Don't leave us. Instead stay with us and make your home in these parts.'

5 Thereafter saint Brigit stayed with them.

5 Thereupon saint Brigit said to him, 'Demon, speak to us.' But his answer was, 'Holy virgin Brigit, I could not speak to you nor could I spurn your commands because you do not spurn God's commands and are affable towards his poor and least significant ones.'¹² Brigit said, 'What was the reason of your coming here?'

6 The demon answered, 'I reside here with a virgin and it is because of her laziness that I have a dwelling-place in her. And when the virgin came here to be blessed, I stayed here.'

7 Then the virgin was summoned to them and she (Brigit) made the sign of the cross on her eyes and she saw the hideous monster and was in fear and trembling. And saint Brigit said to her, 'See the one whom you have been nurturing habitually for many years!'

8 And from that day the virgin was freed of the demon.

§36. 1 Saint Brigit went to another church in the Tethbae area in response to an invitation, to celebrate Easter Day there. However the superioress of the church said to her nuns on the day of the Lord's Supper, 'Which of you is going to do the washing of the feet today for our old people and our sick?' But as none of the young nuns wanted to do it, they made excuses.

§40. 1 As evening fell that day the all went off in various directions to their homes.¹³ But Brigit went to the water with her nuns.

2 Then a certain countryman invited her saying, 'I have a new house. I want you to be the first to come into it to consecrate it.' Saint Brigit went with him and he served her with great joy, for he had witnessed the miracle which Brigit had performed at the council that day and he set food before them.

3 Then Brigit said to her nuns, 'The Lord has shown me that this man is a heathen.' And one of her companions answered, 'What you say is true, for he more than anyone else stubbornly resisted St Patrick and his disciples and refused to be baptized.'

4 Then Brigit said to him, 'We cannot eat your food unless you first get baptized.'

5 Then moved to compunction by God, the man together with all his household believed and was baptized by Bishop Brón, the disciple of Patrick.

6 Next day Patrick said to Brigit, 'From this day on you may not travel without a priest. Your charioteer is always to be a priest.' So he ordained a priest named Nathfroich who was Brigit's charioteer all his life.

§45. 1 On the eve of a certain solemnity, one of her women disciples whom Brigit had fostered came to saint Brigit at Kildare bringing her a donation. After presenting the gift she said, 'I'll go back home so that my parents may come to pray with you through the night. I'll stay to mind the house and cattle.'

2 Brigit said, 'No; you stay here and let your parents come. The Lord will mind your property and your home.' So her parents came as she had said, and together they all celebrated the feast in saint Brigit's company.

§53. 1 A certain king came to Brigit to celebrate the solemnity of Pentecost. And when he had celebrated there that night, he got up very early to go home. They sped along quickly in chariots and on horseback. But after the solemn ceremonies of the day were over Brigit came to table and a generous helping was served to everyone.

§58. 1 St Patrick was preaching the word of God one day to the crowds and saint Brigit.

2 Then everyone saw a very bright cloud coming down from the sky to the dark earth on a rainy day. Gleaming from an enormous flash of lightning, it paused for a little while at a spot nearby beside the crowd.

3 Afterwards it went to Dún Lethglaisse where Patrick is buried. Lingered there a while longer the cloud then disappeared and the crowds did not dare ask what this extraordinary apparition meant but asked saint Brigit.

4 And Brigit said, 'Ask Patrick.' When Patrick heard this he said, 'You and I know equally well. Reveal this mystery to them.'

§84. 1 As the fame of saint Brigit increased throughout many regions, some clerics came to her from a distance with gifts and brought the gifts to her in chariots and on horseback.

§95. 1 A great discussion arose among the Laigin about the absence of

saint Brigit and they sent messengers to her to the territories of the Connachta to come back to her own people.

2 Thereupon Brigit came with them. And when they reached the River Sionna they found there near Áth Luain two groups of people waiting, one on either bank, namely the Uí Néill and the people of the Connachta.

