

THE CROPPY BOY

FEBRUARY 2026



HAPPY ST. BRIGID'S DAY

See inside for all the events and goings ons from the Plymouth division of The Ancient Order of Hibernians



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Father John Murphy,
The Rebellion of 1798

2026 DIVISION 9 OFFICERS

Michael Schilling
President

Michael Faut
Vice President

Thomas McTigue
Financial Secretary

Brendan Burke
Treasurer

John Sullivan
Recording Secretary

James O'Sullivan
Marshall

John Travers
Sentinel

Stephen Cohan
Standing Committee Chairman

NEW MEMBERSHIP

If any current members are aware of fellow Irish Catholics interested in joining the cause of the Ancient Order of Hibernians please invite them to a monthly meeting. New Membership Applications are readily available.

There is strength in numbers and increasing membership is the first step in maximizing our charitable efforts and performing our call to action!

FROM THE OFFICERS' DESK

DUES

Brothers, this is a friendly reminder that annual dues for the Father John Murphy Division are now due. Dues are \$70 and may be paid by cash or check at this month's meeting, or via Venmo for your convenience. If you'd like to pay by Venmo, please contact us and we'll provide the details.

Thank you for your continued support of the Division.



FFAI DONATIONS

Dear Brothers,

At the January meeting we will be doing final Christmas Appeal collections for the annual FFAI. We are looking to hit the goal of an overall \$1000 donation to the cause. Cash, check or venmo are excepted.

Thank you!

calendar of events

2026		FEBRUARY				
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 	6	7 
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

5

Monthly Meeting

7:00 pm, Hibernian Hall
36 Cordage Park Circle
Plymouth, MA

7

Social @ The Auld Triangle

2:00 pm, The Auld Triangle
412 Main Street
Hyannis, MA

Looking Ahead:

March.....

5

March Meeting

7:00pm, Hibernian Hall
36 Cordage Park Circle
Plymouth, MA

15

Scituate Parade

1:00pm

7

Cape Cod Parade & Festival

11:00am, Yarmouth for Parade
12:00pm, Festival

17

St Patrick's Day

All Day
East Bay Grille

musical calendar

Dates, locations and times where you can find Hibernians or Friends of the Division playing in the Plymouth County area.

BROTHER STEVE KERR

Traditional Sessions

The Snug Pub - Hingham, MA, Mondays 5:30pm

The ICC Pub - Canton, MA, Fridays 7:00pm

Malachy's Saloon - Quincy, MA, Wednesdays 6:00pm

WEEKLY TRADITIONAL SESSIONS

THE SNUG PUB

116 North St., Hingham, MA

Mondays, Starting at 5:30pm

THE TINKER'S SON

707 Main St., Norwell, MA

Wednesdays, 6pm - 9pm

THE COTTAGE BAR

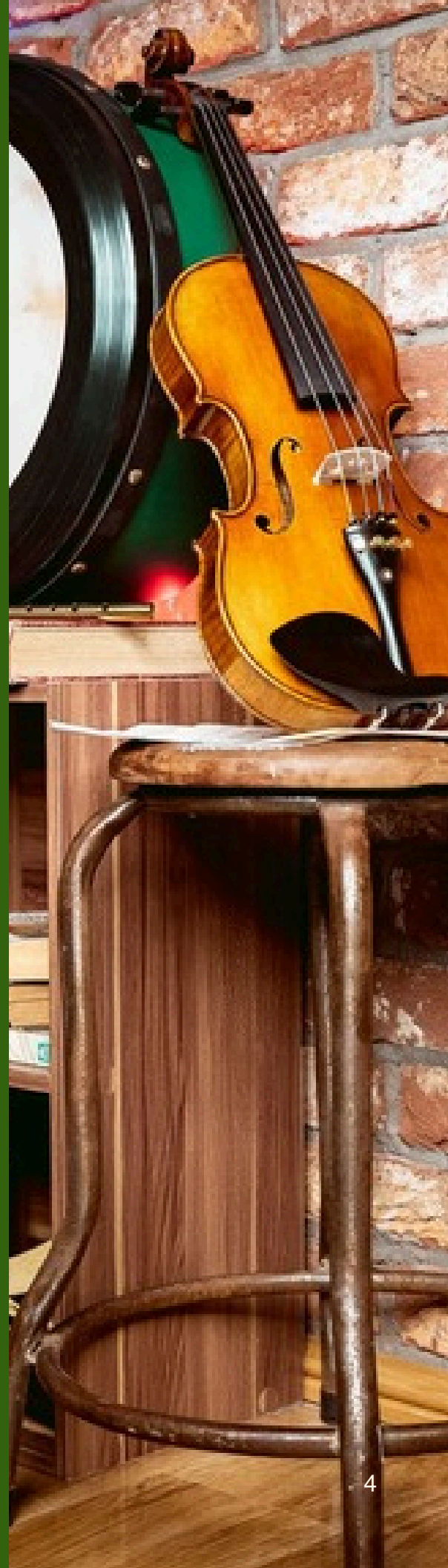
26 Union St., Weymouth, MA

Thursdays, Starting at 6:30pm & Sunday afternoons

THE AULD TRIANGLE - WEEKLY IRISH MUSIC

42 Main St., Hyannis, MA

Saturdays, 7pm - 10m



Brother Francis O'Brien



It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of our brother Francis R. O'Brien, who left us earlier this month. Francis was a valued and respected member of our Division, known to many of us for his kindness, generosity, and quiet dedication. He will be remembered for the friendship he shared and the positive presence he brought to those around him. We were fortunate to count Francis among our brothers, and he will be deeply missed.

Division brothers are asked to please join us at our monthly meeting, where we will perform a memorial for Francis in honor of his life and memory. Let us come together in fellowship to remember our brother and support one another during this time of loss.

You're Invited: Division Social, Live Podcast & Saturday Session

All members are warmly invited to a Division social this Saturday, February 7th, at the Auld Triangle Irish Pub & Restaurant in Hyannis. We'll be on location beginning at 2:00 PM, recording a special live episode of the Craic on the Coast podcast, where we'll talk about what to expect at this year's Cape Cod St. Patrick's Day Parade and welcome a variety of guests to join the conversation. The Auld Triangle's popular Saturday Session kicks off at 3:00 PM, making it the perfect afternoon to enjoy great music, good company, and plenty of craic. Whether you stop by for the recording, the session, or both, we hope you'll come out and be part of a lively and memorable afternoon together.

Quick Details:

-  Location: Auld Triangle Irish Pub & Restaurant, Hyannis
-  Podcast Recording Begins: 2:00 PM
-  Saturday Session Starts: 3:00 PM
-  Date: Saturday, February 7th

St. Patrick's Day 2026

Our annual raffle tickets will be available for pick-up at the February meeting for selling and disbursement. This year's Grand Prize gives the winner a choice between \$1,000 cash or a week at a home in Kinvara, Ireland—an incredible prize that we're excited to share with the wider community. Members are encouraged to take tickets, help spread the word, and support this important fundraiser.

March Events & Appearances

We'll also be outlining where the Division will be throughout the month of March, including:

- Cape Cod St. Patrick's Day Parade & Cape Cod Irish Festival – March 7th
- Scituate St. Patrick's Day Parade – March 15th
- Annual St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross – March 17th
- All-day St. Patrick's Day events at East Bay Grille on March 17th, where members will be on hand selling raffle tickets throughout the day
-

These events represent important moments of visibility, tradition, and community engagement for our Division, and member participation is strongly encouraged whenever possible.

If additional events come to our attention between now and March 5th, members will be notified with updated details. We look forward to a lively and meaningful St. Patrick's Day season and thank everyone in advance for their continued support and involvement.

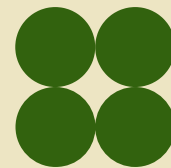
South Shore Irish Road Bowling League

We are excited to share that discussions are underway to establish a South Shore Irish Road Bowling Team, bringing one of Ireland's most unique and spirited sporting traditions to our community. In cooperation with the South Shore Irish Heritage Trail, we have begun the early stages of planning, including the development of bylaws and the framework needed to form both a Plymouth team and additional town teams across the region. Irish road bowling blends skill, fellowship, and heritage, and this initiative represents another meaningful opportunity to celebrate our culture while building camaraderie among members, families, and friends. Anyone interested in joining the Plymouth team—or in helping to organize a team in another South Shore community—is encouraged to reach out. Whether you hope to compete, volunteer, or simply be part of this exciting new endeavor, we look forward to sharing more as the project develops and welcoming all who wish to be involved.



POLITICAL EDUCATION

IRELAND AWARDS MILLIONS TO DIASPORA PROJECTS WORLDWIDE



irishcentral.com

Ireland is strengthening its ties with the global family through a significant new investment in international community projects. This funding ensures that Irish citizens living abroad remain connected to their heritage and receive essential support services.

Minister Helen McEntee and Minister Neale Richmond confirmed that €16.4 million will be allocated to 176 different organizations through the Emigrant Support Programme. These grants will reach groups in 35 countries to support a wide range of cultural and welfare initiatives. This financial commitment highlights the ongoing dedication of the Irish government to protecting and celebrating its vibrant diaspora population everywhere from New York to Sydney.

The Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) supports Irish communities and groups

abroad, working through organisations across the world to deliver the Government's commitment to deepen ties with Irish citizens and communities overseas.

In 2025, the ESP prioritised front line welfare services aimed at supporting the most vulnerable and marginalised of our diaspora. The programme also contributed to promoting vibrant and diverse communities through funding for sporting, cultural, heritage, network building and Irish studies projects.

Since its establishment in 2004, the ESP has granted over €265 million in support of almost 900 voluntary organisations in Ireland and 51 countries across the world.

Highlighting the importance of strong Irish communities overseas, Minister McEntee said: "The partnership we have

with Irish communities abroad makes a vital contribution to promoting Ireland. Their voices amplify our values and their energy showcases the best of our culture and heritage across the globe.

"The Government will ensure the Emigrant Support Programme continues to support our welfare, cultural and sporting organisations. Their work provides a tangible link to home, alleviating loneliness and isolation and helping communities to thrive.

"As we approach the end of the year, I especially want to thank the staff and volunteers around the world who deliver these world-class supports, often in challenging environments. I look forward to meeting more of you next year. In particular, I look forward to engaging with our communities across the EU as I travel ahead of Ireland taking over the EU Presidency in the second half of 2026."

POLITICAL EDUCATION

Minister Richmond said:

“Supporting those who wish to come back to build their lives in Ireland remains a priority. The ESP supports Irish organisations such as Safe Home Ireland and Crosscare as well as the Returning to Ireland Portal on citizensinformation.ie, which provides very useful advice.

“Through Back for Business, we continue to help returning entrepreneurs develop a business in Ireland. We have also responded to a specific request by opening discussions with the State of New York on agreeing a driving licence exchange agreement and will engage with further states in the period ahead.”

Minister Richmond also noted the substantive work undertaken to engage with the global Irish in developing the Government’s new diaspora strategy for 2026-2031. He said: “I want to thank all those who engaged with us throughout the year on our new diaspora strategy. We held 30 formal meetings across the world, as well as the Global Irish Survey which drew more than 10,000 responses.

“I was delighted to meet so many people during the consultations and to hear first-

hand about the opportunities and challenges our overseas communities face. I am committed to ensuring our new strategy reflects what we heard and ensure our relationship with our global Irish communities is a dynamic one that meets their needs.”

2025 also saw broad consultations with our diaspora as part of the development of the Government’s new diaspora strategy. This included 30 in-person consultations around the world as well the first digital consultation with the Irish overseas – the Global Irish Survey. Work on the new strategy is progressing ahead of its launch next year.



Freedom For All Ireland

Northern Ireland first minister puts definite timeline on unity referendum

By Colum Motherway
irishcentral.com, February 2nd, 2026

Northern Ireland's first minister has stated what she believes the deadline for a referendum on Irish Unity should be.

Michelle O'Neill appeared on the Sunday Morning With Trevor Phillips show this weekend, discussing the highly debated political topic.

O'Neill believes that it is an opportunity for the Northern Irish people to "take control of our own fortunes".

She said that she "absolutely can" see a unity referendum in her time as first minister, adding that her 'party's view' is to have it held by 2030.

O'Neill said: "So now is the time for the plan and the preparation.

"I don't want done to the people here what was done in relation to Brexit.

"Brexit was an economic self-harm, a massive act of economic self-harm. It was done against the wishes of the people."

She added: "We have an ability to take control of our own fortunes. I encourage all political leaders to reach for that together."

The first minister's comments directly contradict previous comments made by Micheál Martin, who doesn't believe a unity referendum is in Ireland's near future.

Back in September, the Taoiseach remarked that "there won't be a border poll before 2030".

Meanwhile, Northern Ireland's deputy first minister also appeared on Sunday Morning With Trevor Phillips and had a differing opinion.

Emma Little-Pengelly claimed that nationalist and republican movements in Northern Ireland have not increased their vote share since the devolution from Westminster.

She stated: "I'm a unionist, we have a Sinn Féin first minister. But I think it's important to say that in Northern Ireland nationalism and republicanism haven't increased their vote from 1998.

"Despite democratic change, they're sitting on and around the same percentage that they had in 1998. I think those who want to see the breakup of the union dory to constantly get this momentum.

"I have no doubt that you will hear that again because, of course, to serve their purpose is to try to get that sense of momentum towards that. That doesn't exist in Northern Ireland."

Irish History



Everything you need to know about Ireland's female patron saint, St. Brigid

Irishcentral.com, January 30th 2026

Here's to Saint Brigid, Ireland's great female patron saint! St Brigid is believed to have founded one of the first monasteries in Ireland.

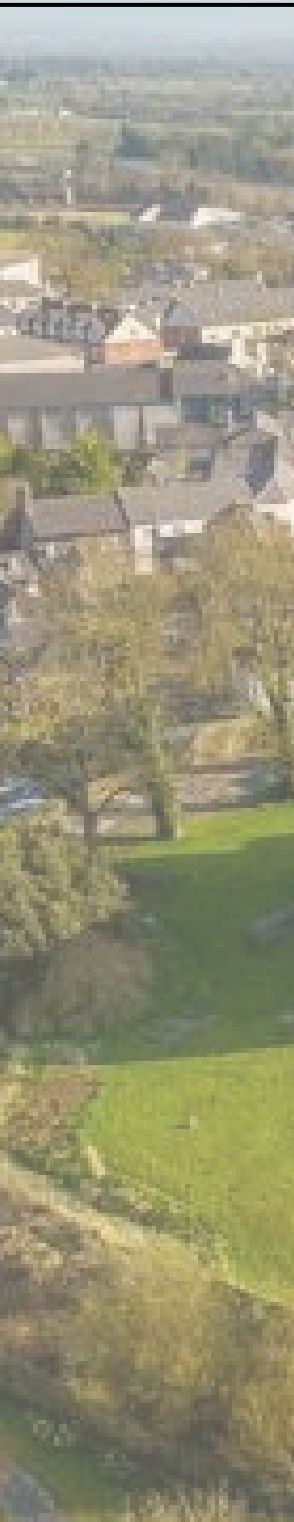
In 2023, St. Brigid's Day became Ireland's newest bank holiday - it's observed on the first Monday after February 1, which in 2026, is February 2.

While St. Patrick is celebrated around the world every March 17, St. Brigid "Muire na nGael" ("Mary of the Irish") is less well known outside of Ireland, where she is held in high regard.

Her feast day is February 1, which will be celebrated throughout Ireland by remembering St. Brigid's remarkable story and by following certain Irish traditions.

St. Brigid's Day is linked to the Celtic festival of Imbolc,





heralding the return of spring on February 1. The Celtic Goddess Bríd was regarded as a goddess of healing and the ancient Celts acknowledged her on this day as the day that signaled renewal, new growth, and escape from darkness.

When was St. Brigid born?

St. Brigid is believed to have been born circa 451 near Dundalk, Co Louth.

Today, she is celebrated for her role in converting Irish tribes to Christianity and establishing what could be the oldest Irish monastery in Co Kildare.

St. Brigid has long been a favorite saint, recognized in Irish customs and traditions.

She comes second only to St. Patrick in terms of the number of customs that asked for her blessing and guidance.

The many ways and traditions to celebrate St. Brigid's Day

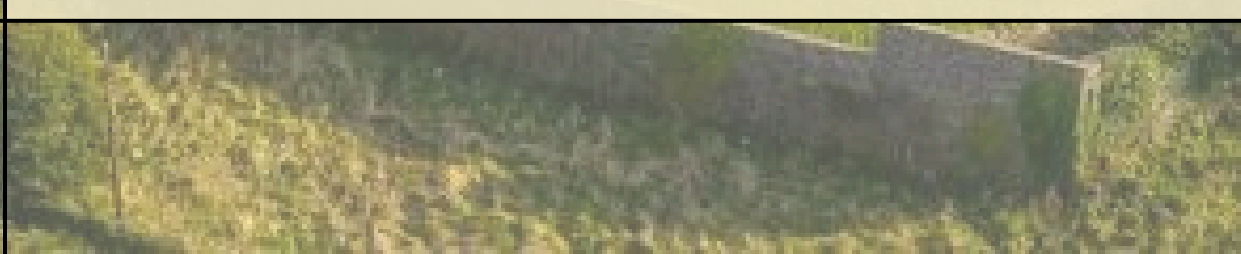
Hoping to remember some of those

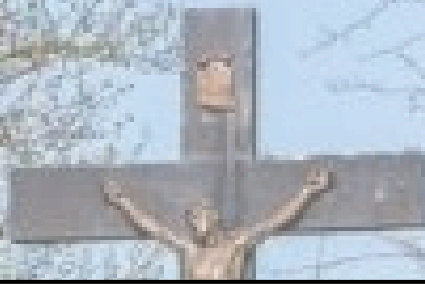
vibrant traditions of St. Brigid's Day, Wicklow-based folklorist Johnny Dillon compiled these must-know facts about the saint, looking back on the many ways in which she was remembered and feted in Ireland, where storytelling and visiting others were the main forms of entertainment.

Dillon, who has worked with the National Folklore Collection in Dublin and with the Folklore of Ireland Society, told IrishCentral, "It's fair to say that I am quite obsessed with this topic, and am similarly dedicated to the preservation, protection, and promotion of our traditional culture and heritage," something which he views as "a counterbalance to the shallowness present in much of modern experience."

For example, have you ever heard of the Biddies, the St. Brigid effigies made out of butter churns that were celebrated with music from house to house as part of a tradition asking St. Brigid to look after the year's profits?

Or of St. Brigid's mantle, of which stripes were often woven into the clothing of fishermen to protect them from drowning?





"I compiled this specific piece to educate people about the many customs surrounding the festival of St. Brigid in Irish folk tradition," Dillon said.

"St. Brigid is close to the hearts of many in Ireland, and her festival represents the arrival of spring, and in doing so celebrates ideas of propagation, fertility and the feminine.

"A knowledge of our traditional heritage provides us with a deeper understanding of our roots, and can, I believe, foster a sense of meaning and belonging which has in many ways, been stripped from us in modernity ... Our customs and traditions, therefore, should not merely be viewed as relating to the past, but be thought of as lights by which we might steer ourselves onward, into the future."

Good & Welfare

Division 9 Scrapbook

From all the items that have turned up in the moving of the hall we have decided to create a division scrapbook. We are looking for a volunteer to put this together. Anyone interested please let Mike Schilling know at the next meeting.

PRA YERS FOR.....

Brother Francis O'Brien



Gaeltacht CORNER

Greeting:

English - Happy St. Brigid's Day

Irish - Lá Fhéile Bríde shona daoibh

/‘Law Fay-la Bree-da hun-a deev’