



## **The Holy Well**

Holy Wells are part of the storehouse of our Celtic past and a birthplace of the future, so you can use a Celtic lens as you journey through our Garden. Ireland has over 3,000 Holy Wells, and National Holy Wells Day is celebrated in June.

For the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, August 22-26, which will be attended by Pope Francis, a biodiverse Celtic Christian Garden is being assembled in the Carpark of the Poor Clare Convent, Saint Damian's Simmons Court Road, Dublin 4. One of the many attractions of the Garden will be a Holy Well built for the occasion on the lines of ancient Irish Holy Wells. The Well is being crafted by Philip O'Neill, stone-cutter for world-famous Irish artist Imogen Stuart, whose sculptures will be represented in the Garden and elsewhere in the RDS.

Our Holy Well is to be named after St Broc, which means '*badger*' in Gaelic. Our St Broc lived in the 8th century and was one of the seven daughters of Dallbhrónach in Deece, County Meath. She founded a monastery on the city side of the Dodder River in nearby Donnybrook: in Gaelic this place-name is Domhnach Broc, meaning *The Church of Broc*. 'Broc' is still a popular name in the area.

The Holy Well is made from Irish granite which is perhaps 400 million years old! 'Granite' comes from 'grains' because you can see the grains in it. Natural wells are old! The Sisters have decided that the Well should become a permanent fixture. It is arousing great interest and may soon become a place of veneration and prayer. The fact that St Broc was female is a happy surprise for many, in a period when the complementarity of women in the Church is slowly being acknowledged.

Take water from the well into your hands; contemplate its beauty; let it fall and admire the sound. Think how vital it is for the survival of all living things. Thank God for it and pray that clean water may be protected and shared across the world.