

The Sacred Flame: A Feminine Celebration

Throughout the world, fire has become a symbol for strength and power in many faiths, cultures and empires. Specifically in the Celtic world, fire is also a representation of life and potential, shown by its connection to both the goddess and patron saint, Brigid.

What was Brigid's flame?

- Sacred flame in Kildare
- Priestesses gathered to call on earth goddess Brigid to protect animals and ensure a bountiful harvest
- Later, St. Brigid built monastery and church where fire was and elected to keep fire burning
- Flame added to Christianity

A Comparison of Flames:

- Flames both physical and metaphorical
- Flame most similar to Brigid is Fire of Vesta, Rome
 - Vestal Virgins, 6 women devoting 30 years virginity tending fire
 - Tending more fear-based by society

The Feminine Connection:

- Physical and metaphorical
- Can be connected to purity
- Fire's connection to the potential in one's self
 - Life bearer and caretaker
 - Nurturer
- Ability to carry a life line; lineage/legacy