

St. Brigid and the Fox

BRIGID  1500

St. Brigid was renowned for her love of animals. The King of Leinster had a pet fox that he adored and one day, a workman accidentally killed the king's fox, thinking it a wild animal.

The king was very angry and the king sentenced the man to death.

St. Brigid was asked by the workman's family to try persuade the king to spare him. Brigid set off the talk to the king and not knowing what he might say to her, she prayed she could save the workman's life.

As she walked along her way, she spotted a shy little fox following her. She knelt down and the fox came to her, jumping into her cloak, where Brigid spoke softly to the animal.

When she arrived at the castle, the king was still mad but soon calmed when Brigid took the little fox from her cloak.

St. Brigid asked the king to spare the workman's life and he said 'if this little fox can perform the trick's my dear old fox did, then I will spare the man his life.

Brigid asked the little fox to do all the tricks and tasks the king's pet had been able to perform. She quietly asked the fox to jump through hoops, to stand on two legs and other tricks - all of which the little fox did, eager to please Brigid and the king.

The king was amazed and quickly forgot his anger. He told his guards to release the workman back to his family.

St. Brigid was delighted with the outcome and went home leaving the little fox in the care of the king.

But the little fox was wild and he disliked being kept in the castle. When the king left on business days later, the fox escaped through an open door.

When the king returned, he missed his pet and sent all his people and hounds out to look for the wee fox - but the wild little fox was never seen again.