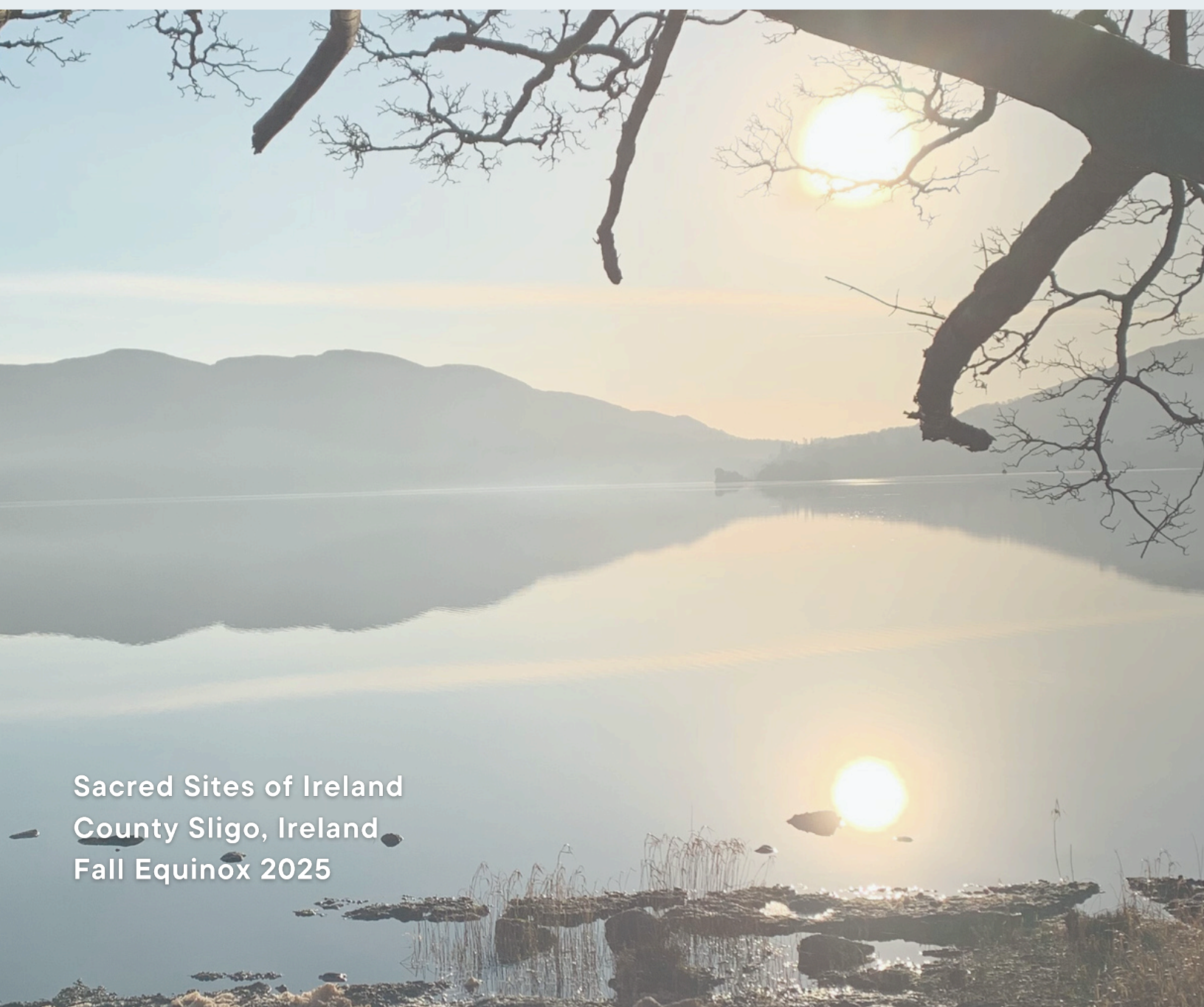


MYSTERIES OF CELTIC ANCESTRAL LANDS

A Pilgrimage to Ireland

September 17-25, 2025



Sacred Sites of Ireland
County Sligo, Ireland
Fall Equinox 2025

Introduction

Ireland's celtic history is rich with myths and legends of the ancient gods and goddesses of the Tu'atha Da Danaan, the people of the Light.

The battles between ancient kingdoms left energetic scars on the land and on the people.

Join us in exploring the legends and their impact on current culture. Find your place in the story as you engage with the spirit of place and time and assist in the healing of ancestral wounding.

In addition to these sacred sites, there will be time to explore the lovely town of Sligo along the Garavoge River for local food, music and shopping. Accommodations for the week will be at private stone hermitage accommodation at holyhill.ie.

Mary Francis Drake

Rt. Rev. Mary Francis Drake, MA, MSW, D-Min

madevi.org



Photo credit: [Maundy Mitchell Photography](#).

Rt. Rev. Mary Francis Drake, MA, MSW, D-Min is Senior Adjunct Faculty in the Psychology Department at the University of Massachusetts--Lowell Campus and Online. She has been teaching for UMASS Lowell for 35 years. Her teaching, private practice counseling and spiritual direction offerings have focused on finding the sacred balance of the Divine Feminine and Divine Masculine to restore our beings and our planet to balance.

With over 25 years as a Psycho-Spiritual Counselor, 20 years as a Priest, and now Bishop (4 years) in the Mystical Christian Tradition, Mary Francis continues to broaden her scope in the area of Conscious Evolution by ordaining independent Priests and offering spiritual direction to seekers.

She is also a poet and author of 5 books related to her ecclesiastic training and its transforming power: *This Much I Know Is True*, 2016 (essay collection); *beauty, grit & grace*, 2018 (poetry collection); *Dancing in the Doorway: A Life's Journey Between Worlds*, 2022, (purposeful memoir); *Conscious Evolution on the Mystical Christian Initiatory Path: A Spiritual Technology for the Golden Age*, 2024 (teaching manual); and *Take Heart: Encouragement from the Visions & Visitations of a Modern Mystic*, 2025 (mystical experiences).

Mary Francis is also the mother of 3 young adult children. She has recently moved to Vermont to start a Queen Mothers Home for elderwomen to age in place with dignity and community, harvesting the gold of the elder years for the sake of future generations.

Audrey Drake

Singer, Songwriter, Sound Healer, Reiki Master, Mystic

audreydrake.com



Photo credit: [Maundy Mitchell Photography](#)

Audrey Drake grabs the attention of her listeners with music that tugs at their hearts and an unassumingly cultivated voice. Her music crosses many styles and offers a great balance of songs both familiar and unknown, curated for the people in front of her. Listeners love her angelic tone and are sometimes surprised by the powerhouse of soulful sound within her. Haunting melodies and soulful lyrics transport you to a place where there is only you, the music, and life's journey.

Audrey's music is also influenced by her spiritual journey and path. Whether singing on festival stages, in yoga spaces or Kirtan events her unique voice and contemplative lyrics touch the hearts of those present to offer healing. On this journey, she will be offering sound healing in support of the transformative process, offering morning sacred practice.

Day 1 - Divine Orientation

September 17 - Pick-up at Dublin Airport, 9am local time.

Our first day will be spent at the sacred Celtic land at Tara. We will gather at Tara's Holy Well to be blessed in the sacred waters before walking the processional way to the Stone of Destiny where the Stone of Destiny was said to shout out when the next King approached.



Once the water and the ancestral kings are honored, we will walk the faerie field and make offerings to the elemental beings and ask for their blessings on our journey and our work. Then, we head to Holy Hill and settle into the hermitages for the evening community dinner.

Day 2 - Holy Hill

September 18

We explore the beautiful grounds at Holy Hill, taking in the gardens, woodland paths and a 3-mile loop across the countryside with pastoral and ocean views.

Later, we gather in the library for teaching and reflection, orienting ourselves to the week's sacred work of reparation, reconciliation, and reconnection. Afterward, there's time for cloite-making and the gathering of local objects for offerings. Meals on your own this day in your hermitage or picnicking in the countryside or at the local beach.



Day 3 - Celtic Gods

September 19



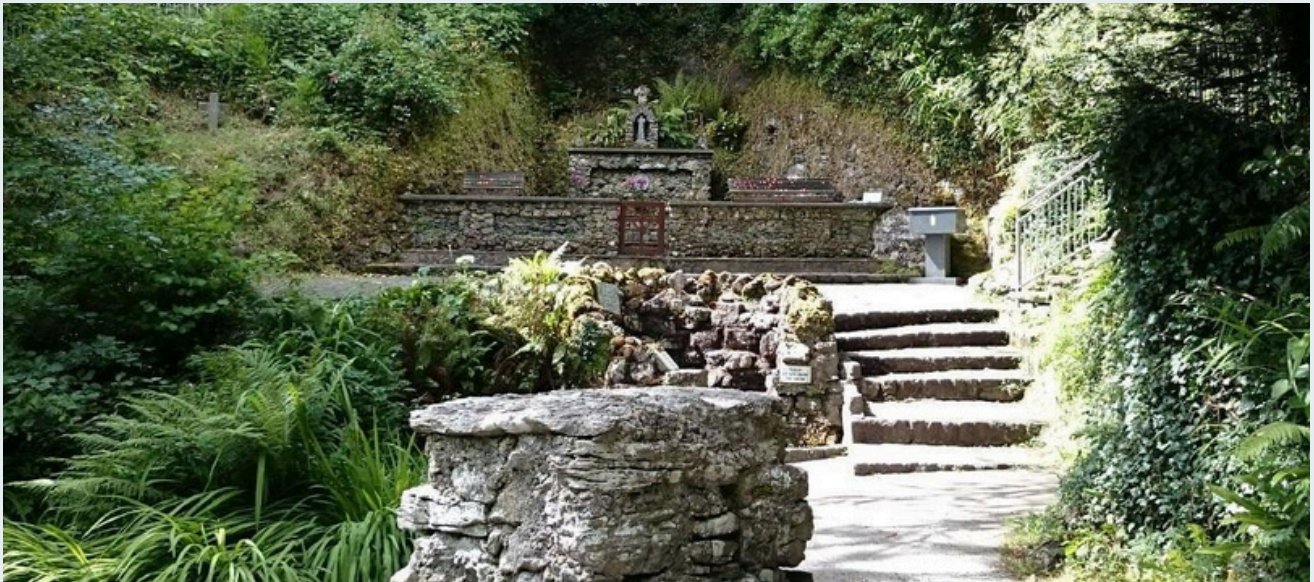
This is a travel day to County Roscommon, where we'll begin at the Hill of Uisneach, home to a sacred monument honoring the Celtic gods Ériu and Lugh. From there, we descend into the legendary Cave of Cats, said to be the birthplace of Queen Maeve. Our journey continues with a stop at Loch Lugh, where we pick up the mythic thread of the Sun God, Lugh. If time allows, we'll conclude the day with a visit to Clonmacnoise, the ancient monastic site nestled along the River Shannon.



Day 4 - Sligo Town

September 20

Our day in Sligo Town will begin with another Holy Well at Tobernalt, followed by a tour of the Sligo Cathedral and downtown area for shopping, food, and entertainment.

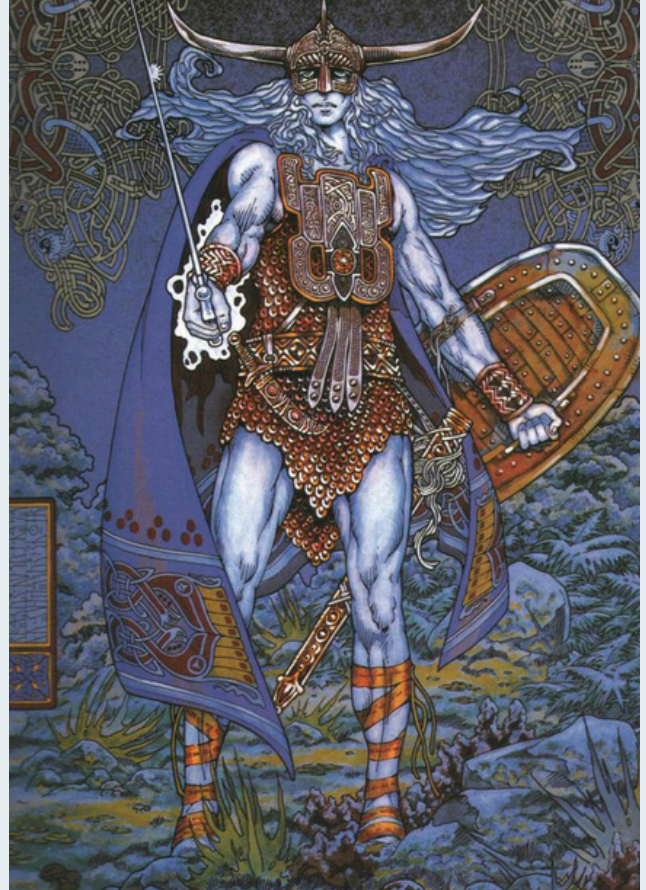


Day 5 - Ancient Burial Sites

September 21



Another day of gentle hiking up to the passage tombs of Carrowkeel and the Cave of Kesh, ancient burial sites and a final stop at Shee Lugh, burial site of Lugh with a view of Loch Arrow.



Day 6 - Equinox

September 22

Holy Well at Aughris Head for Equinox Service



Day 7 - Queen Maeve

September 23



Early morning hike up Knocknarea to the burial cairn of Queen Maeve.



The rest of the day will be spent at the seaside village of Strandhill where you can shop, eat and schedule a spa treatment at Voya Seaweed Spa.

Day 8 - Integration

September 24

Final day at Holy Hill enjoying the grounds and the local beach. Evening program and dinner. Packing for early departure.



Day 9 - Departure

September 25

Early departure to Sligo bus station. Bus to Dublin Airport arrival at 11 am.

Logistics

- Pilgrimage limited to 8 participants
- Participants are responsible for flights to Dublin Airport
- Please plan to arrive in Dublin before 9 am local time on 9/17 and depart after 1 pm local time on 9/25
- LODGING: <https://www.holyhill.ie/>
Private or double hermitage
- COST: \$3000 per person includes ground transport, private hermitage with staple foods (no meat or alcohol provided), 3 evening community meals, admission to sites
- Not included: airfare, tips, spa services, meals while traveling, souvenirs
- Non-refundable deposit of \$1000 due May 1, balance due July 1

What to Bring

- It's Ireland...so bring a raincoat and/or umbrella
- Waterproof wellies (rubber boots) & headlamp if you plan to climb into the Cave of Cats
- Hiking boots if you plan to climb Knocknarea (45 minute uphill hike, moderate)
- Journal, pens, religious/spiritual items for shrine
- Prayer beads or Rosary
- A satchel or back pack to carry the above
- Spending money for shopping and meals



In Ireland this world and the world
we go to after death are not far
apart... Indeed there are times
when the worlds are so near
together that it seems as if our
earthly chattels were no more than
the shadows of things beyond.

- W.B. Yeats

To inquire further, please contact
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