



NOLLAIG

na

mBAN



Nollaig na mBan

January 6th is the 12th day of the season of Christmas. Traditionally, it is celebrated as the day when the three Kings arrived at the stable in Bethlehem with their gifts for the baby Jesus. Sometimes this is called the feast of the “Epiphany”.



Nollaig na mBan

In some churches, the statues of the three Kings are only added to the crib scene on this date.





Nollaig na mBan

January 6th is usually regarded as the last day of the Christmas celebrations. Many people will not take down their Christmas tree or decorations before this date.





Nollaig na mBan

4



January 6th is sometimes known in Ireland as “Nollaig na mBan” or “Women’s Christmas”. It is also sometimes referred to as “Little Christmas”.



Nollaig na mBan

In olden times, especially in the south of the country, January 6th was traditionally marked as a "Thank-you" to the women in a household who had worked so hard to prepare for Christmas.





Nollaig na mBan



It was also a recognition of the central role that women in particular had played in the planning, preparation, cooking and cleaning in the household for the Christmas period.



Nollaig na mBan

On January 6th the traditional household roles were reversed – women sat back and had a rest while the men did all of the chores and the household tasks.





Nollaig na mBan

8



It was also traditional for women to gather informally on January 6th. Sometimes, women would visit the homes of their friends and neighbours to enjoy tea and the last of the Christmas cake.



Nollaig na mBan

In some areas, it was believed that women reared some turkeys in the run-up to Christmas to sell at the local market. They used the money to pay for treats for the family at Christmas. If there was any money left over, they would spend it on themselves on Nollaig na mBan.





Nollaig na mBan

10



Sometimes, children would present gifts to their mother or grandmother on Nollaig na mBan to mark the celebration of the day.



Nollaig na mBan

One curious tradition that used to take place on January 6th was that mothers used to rub the tail of a herring across the eyes of her children to give them immunity from disease for the rest of the year!





Nollaig na mBan

Another January 6th tradition was to ensure that the floor was swept and to have a bucket of clean water ready before going to bed that night. That bucket of water was not to be used on the following day.





Nollaig na mBan



An interesting belief in ancient Ireland was that all well water was said to briefly turn into wine at midnight on Little Christmas. It was considered bad luck if anyone went out to check on the well at this time, or even to taste the well water!



Nollaig na mBan

While the traditions of Nollaig na mBan died out for many years, the celebration of the day on January 6th is experiencing a revival. In many areas, special celebration events aimed at groups of women, such as restaurant meals or artistic gatherings, are becoming more common.



For Your Information

Thank you for downloading this Seomra Ranga resource. We hope that you find it practical and useful in your classroom.

Please be aware of the following conditions before using this resource.

Please DO:

- Print and copy this resource so that you can use it with your pupils.
- Make this resource available to your pupils in a private enclosed online space eg. Google Classroom, Seesaw, Edublogs etc.
- Tell others if you have found it useful.

Please DO NOT:

- Copy or share this resource (in part or whole) with others who have not joined our website. By becoming a member for themselves, they will help the site develop into the future.
- Make this resource available on your school website for anyone to download.
- Share this resource with participants on any sort of course
- Share this resource with other teachers in online groups eg. Facebook Groups, WhatsApp Groups etc.

Kind regards, Seomra Ranga



Resources used in this file from:



<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Hello-Literacy>



<https://depositphotos.com/>