

# Making a St Brigid's Cross

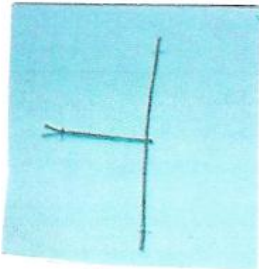


Figure 1

## Preparation:

Cut and gather some fresh rushes. Sort out the thick ones from the thin ones and use rushes of roughly the same length and thickness. It is very important to hold the rushes firmly but not tightly. If the rushes are held too loose the cross will fall apart. *If you don't have access to rushes, you can also use straw, plastic straws or pipe cleaners.*

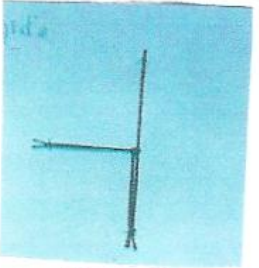


Figure 2

## Making the Cross:

### • Step 1

Start with two rushes. Fold one in half and place it over the first to form a T shape (See figure 1).

*\*Note. If you are left handed hold the cross in your right hand and if you are right handed hold the cross in your left hand leaving your stronger hand free for the job of selecting, bending and placing the rushes. If you are left handed you will rotate the cross clockwise, if you are right handed you will rotate the cross anti-clockwise.*

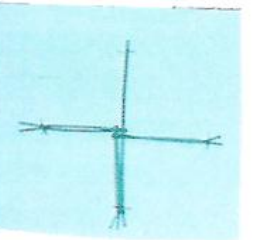


Figure 3

### • Step 2

Fold another rush in half and place it over the already folded piece (See figure 2). Rotate the cross so that you are holding the most recently added piece of rush.

### • Step 3

Pick another rush, fold it and place it over the last rush you added (See figure 3). Rotate the cross again, in the same direction as before, so that you are holding the most recently added piece of rush. You now have the basic four-armed cross shape.

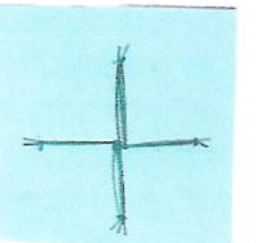


Figure 4

### • Step 4

Continue to add more rushes, one at a time, whilst constantly rotating the cross. Each new rush holds the previous one in place.

### • Step 5

By now you will notice a pattern emerging in the centre of your cross from the overlapping folds. Take care not to overlap the rushes and use your thumb to grip the centre of the cross.

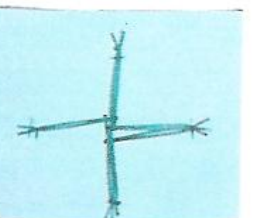


Figure 5

### • Step 6

You are now ready to finish off your cross. (See figure 6). Tie the end of each arm of the cross. Begin with the 'arm' you last added to. Once you have secured this, it will hold the rest of the cross together. Tie the other three arms. Now trim the edges of the cross so that the arms are neat and of the same length. Make sure you don't cut too close to where it is tied.

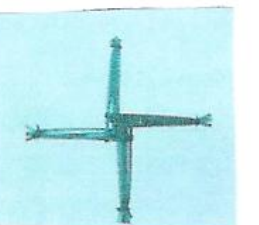


Figure 6

Congratulations! You have made your own Brigid's cross.