

Making a 3-Legged St. Brigid's Cross

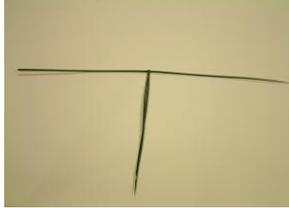
Preparation:

Cut and prepare some fresh rushes. Sort out the thick ones from the thin ones and use rushes of roughly the same length and thickness. It is 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 and pipe cleaners

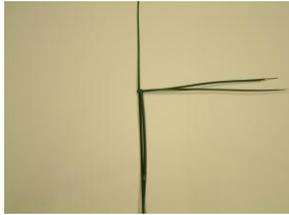
Making the Cross:

- **Step 1**



Start with two rushes. Fold one in half and place it over the first to form a t-shape. 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.

- **Step 2**



Fold another rush in half and place it over the already folded piece. Rotate the cross so you're holding the most recently added piece of rush.

- **Step 3**



Pick another rush and fold it over the last rush you added. Rotate the cross in the same direction as before so that you are holding the most recently added piece of rush. You should now have the basic four-armed cross shape.

- **Step 4**



You need to turn the cross into a three-armed cross so fasten the two pieces that have not been added to yet with another folded rush. This will create a triangle shape. Once you get this triangular shape keep on adding to the cross by fastening the last piece you place.



- **Step 5**

By now you will notice a triangular 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.



- **Step 6**

You are now ready to finish your cross. 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 two arms. Now trim the edges of the cross so the arms are neat and of the same length. Make sure you don't cut too close to where it is tied.



Congratulations you have your own St. Brigid's Cross!