

Wheel of the year





East

*Guardians of the East.
Winds of enlightenment and inspiration.
Please lend your powers
to my Circle this night,
that my mind may open to new ideas.
Hail and Welcome!*



South

*Guardians of the South.
Fire of Passion and Transformation.
Please lend your powers
to my Circle this night,
that my love may sustain the land.
Hail and Welcome!*



West

*Guardians of the West.
Water of Life and Purification.
Please lend your powers
to my Circle this night,
that my heart may be strong and whole.
Hail and Welcome!*



North

*Guardians of the North.
Earth from the beginning of time.
Please lend your powers to my Circle
this night, that I may take my place
in the endless chain of life.
Hail and Welcome!*





FEBRUARY 1
beginning of spring



ALTAR DECORATIONS
candles, cauldron, chalice, Brigid's cross, white flowers, evergreens, Brigid doll, ploughs, sun wheels

COLORS
white, silver, yellow, red, purple, green

HERBS AND FLOWERS
acorns, angelica, basil, bay, blackberry, chamomile, crocus, jasmine, lavender, rosemary

TREES
rowan, evergreen, willow

CRYSTALS AND STONES
amethyst, ruby, garnet, bloodstone, onyx, turquoise

INCENSE AND OILS
angelica, basil, bay, chamomile, frankincense, jasmine, lavender, myrrh, rosemary

ANIMALS
bear, deer, groundhog, lamb, phoenix, swan

SPELLWORK
cleansings, self-purification, rituals, divination, new beginnings, love magic, fire scrying

Imbolc

A celebration of home and hearth



This is the midway point between winter solstice and spring equinox. The earth awakens and calls for renewal and new beginnings.



The name Imbolc originates from 'i mbolg', which translates as 'in the belly'. All is pregnant.

Imbolc was traditionally aligned with the idea of rebirth. The Goddess nurses her Son who is growing in power and strength.

Soon the Goddess will return from the Underworld and the Earth will be reborn.

Imbolc is a celebration of hope, the light returns. It is a time to start thinking about what you want to plant and harvest in the coming year. It is time for the small tasks that are neglected through the busy year. It is time to let go of the past and to look to the future, clearing out the old, making both outer and inner space for new beginnings.



Blessed Brigid, shine your light

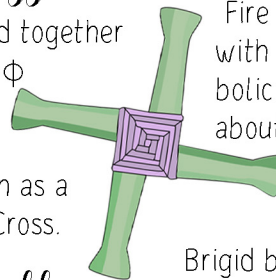


Brigid represents the all-important light half of the year. She is a Goddess of Fire, of the Sun and of the Hearth. She brings fertility to the land and its people. Myths about Brigid's birth say she was born with a flame in her head and drank the milk of a mystical cow from the spirit world. On Imbolc Eve, it was claimed that she would visit the most virtuous homes and bless everyone who slept in them.

Brigid's Cross

Bunches of rushes were tied together and hung at the entrance of the houses to welcome Brigid and Springtime.

Brigid's cross is also known as a Celtic Sun Wheel or Solar Cross.



The flame

Fire of all kinds is associated with Brigid. Fire at Imbolc is symbolic of the Sun's return and is more about the home and each home's hearth.

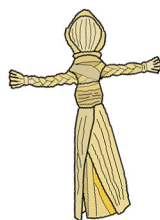


The Swan

Brigid bore an assortment of animal forms, but by far the most significant is that of the white swan. It represents loyalty, fidelity and faithfulness. Swan feathers are a powerful amulet.



Brigid doll



Brigid Dolls are placed into little "beds" next to the fireplace, to welcome light, fertility and fortune to the home.



BRIGID INVOCATION

*Brigid Bright Goddess who is Three within One,
Bright Golden Goddess, attend to us now.
You were born with the blaze of the morning sun,
Flame from heaven to earth, arrow bright.
Goddess Brigid of the Tuatha de Danaan
Ancient Goddess, alive in the Shrine of Kildare
Tended by Priestess Daughters of Flame.
For nineteen days the candles are lit,
By nineteen Priestesses, each in her turn;
Perpetual flames kept alight in Your honour.
But the 20th candle no Priestess will light;
For You bring the flame, and You light the candle.
You are the dancing flame in every hearth fire,
Fire in the head – fire of inspiration
Fire in the hands – fire of healing
Fire in the belly - fire of midwifery
Fire in the forge – fire of craft
Snowdrops grow where your feet touch the earth.
In raked hearth ashes, You divine us with signs.
We hear you in rhythms of forge hammers tapping.
In rivers and brooks we hear your laughter.
In the morning sun, we feel your embrace.
You open the door to Springtime, the ewes in milk,
Then lambing and planting will take up our time.
We will go to your sacred wells and offer them up;
Coins, flower garlands, rings, chants and rhymes,
Candles bright flames, snow flakes and ice.
Brigid Bright Goddess who is Three within One,
Bright Golden Goddess, attend to us now.*





IMBOLG CANDLE RITE

You will need three white candles, candle holders, matches, a cauldron or other heat-proof container, and a small amount of dried winter greenery.

This ritual is best done within a Cast Circle.

Say silently or aloud: "Imbolc is a celebration of hope, the light returns, and Spring is just around the corner. The young God and Goddess stand together once more as the Earth begins to awaken."

Hold the 3 candles to your heart and say:

*"Triple Goddess Maiden, Mother, and Crone
Yet is She ever One.*

*For without Spring there can be no Summer,
Without Summer, no Winter,
Without Winter, no new Spring."*

*Place the 3 candles in a semi-circle around the cauldron or heat-proof container.
Light the candle on the left and say: "I welcome the Maiden of Spring. Blessed Be."
Light the center candle and say: "I honor the Mother of Summer. Blessed Be."
Light the last candle and say: "I bid farewell to the Crone of Winter. Blessed Be."*

*"The light grows strong once more over the Earth
Under the snow, the pulse of life quickens."*

Pick up the dried winter greenery and light it on fire with each of the three candles beginning with the right candle. Place the burning greenery into the cauldron and say:

*"I bid farewell to winter,
May I share in the great cycle of rebirth,
And blossom with new life and creativity.
So Mote it Be!"*





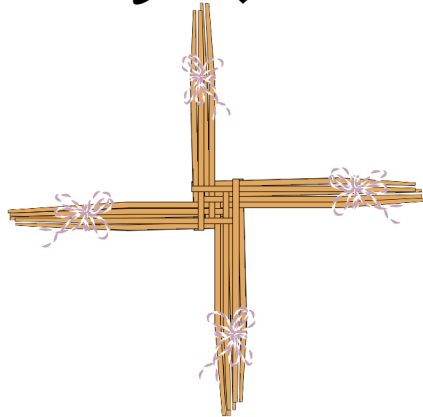
Brigid Cross

Ingredients:

Real Straw
Yarn/string
Water

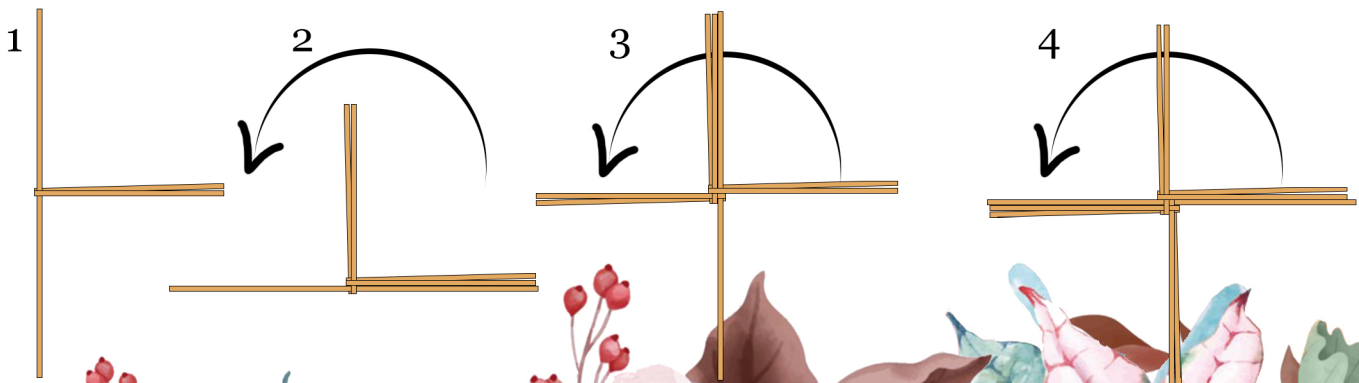
Intention:

Placed on the altar or at the front door, this cross offers protection for the home from fire and evil



Directions:

- First, you will need to soak your straw in warm water for at least 30 minutes so that it doesn't break when you bend it.
- Cleanse your space and ingredients however you would like. You can also choose to light a candle for Brigid if it is within your practice.
- When your straw is ready, begin with 1 straight piece and bend another in half.
- Fold the bent piece over the middle of the straight piece.
- Turn the cross counter-clockwise and bend another piece over the prior one.
- Turn again and repeat until you are happy with the size.
- Use the yarn when finished to tie the ends closed.



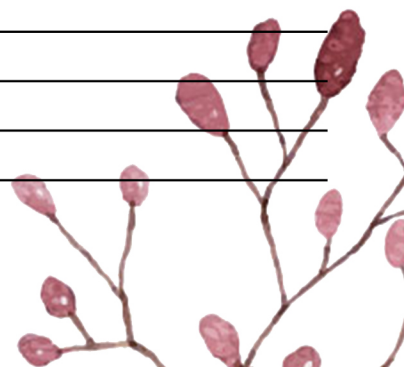


Growth & Clarity Journal

Awaken your senses and your mind to new possibilities and the new adventures that come with the return of the light into your life. Use these journal prompts to get some clarity on your desired growth and personal development for the season. Take a white candle and carve 'Growth' on the side of it. Light it while you write.

What brings me inspiration? How can I be more inspired each day?

What seeds have been planted within me that I can water this season? Write about new ideas and new projects you are looking forward to.





What transitions happened to me during winter that I can use as a stepping stone for growth and change this spring?

What can I clear out of my life to make way for change? This could be an emotion, a person, or general household clutter.

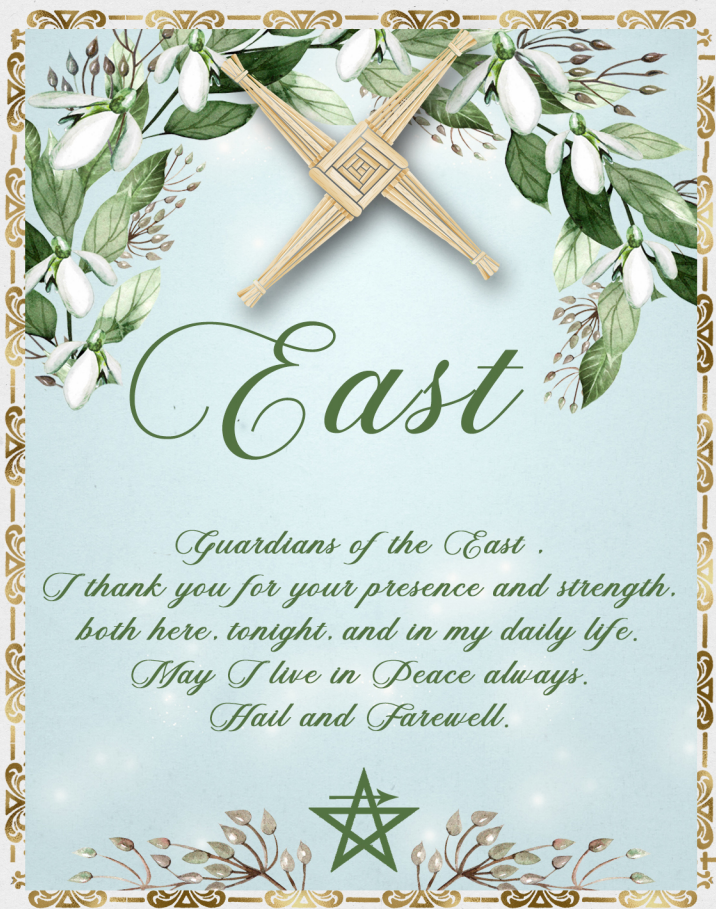
When finished, you can let the candle burn fully or thank it for its energy and snuff it out.



IMBOLG TAROT SPREAD



1. *What you need to leave behind*
2. *The seeds that need to be planted now*
3. *What will inspire you this spring.*
4. *A message from the Goddess*



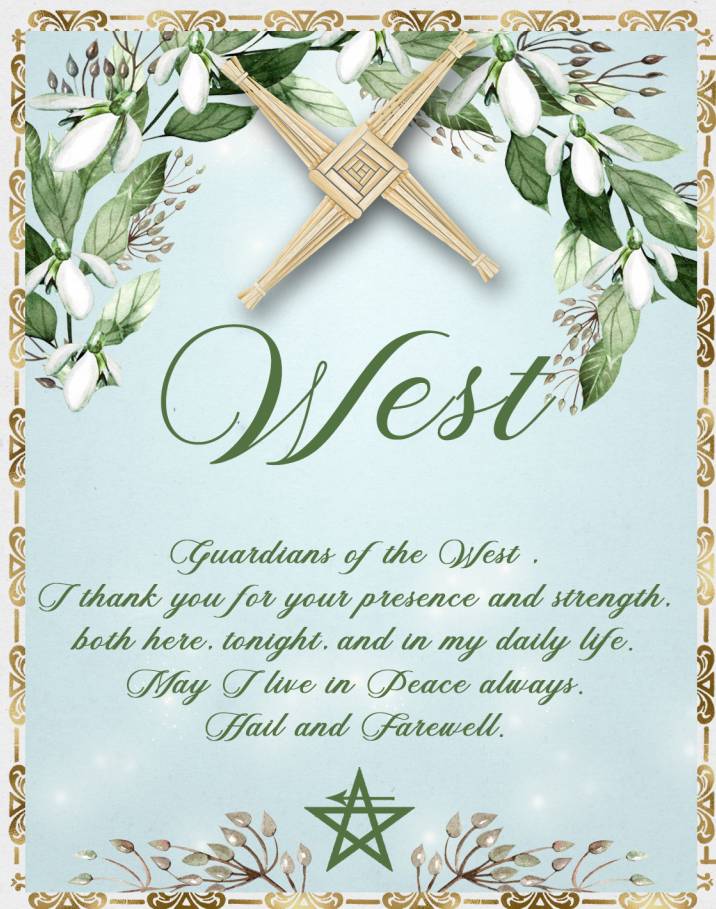
East

*Guardians of the East .
I thank you for your presence and strength,
both here, tonight, and in my daily life.
May I live in Peace always.
Hail and Farewell.*



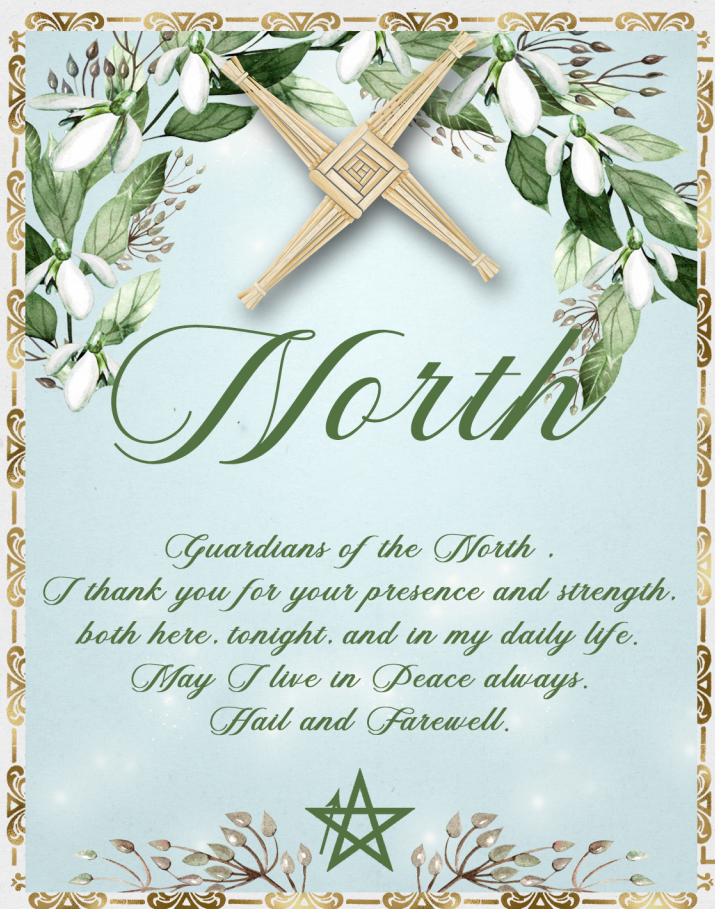
South

*Guardians of the South .
I thank you for your presence and strength,
both here, tonight, and in my daily life.
May I live in Peace always.
Hail and Farewell.*



West

*Guardians of the West .
I thank you for your presence and strength,
both here, tonight, and in my daily life.
May I live in Peace always.
Hail and Farewell.*



North

*Guardians of the North .
I thank you for your presence and strength,
both here, tonight, and in my daily life.
May I live in Peace always.
Hail and Farewell.*

