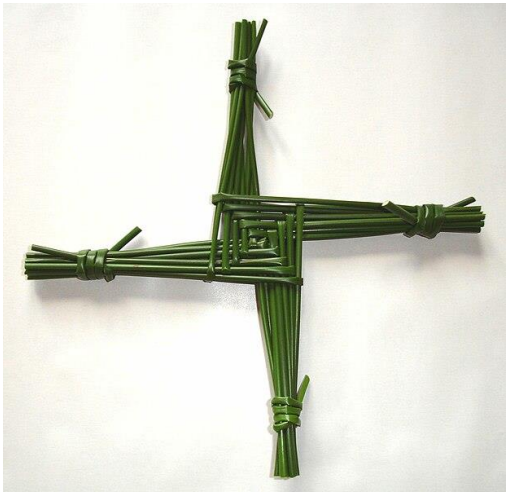
Brigid’s Cross



The St. Brigid's Cross is a woven cross made from rushes, traditionally displayed in Irish homes to ward off evil, fire, and hunger. It's also associated with St. Brigid, one of Ireland's patron saints, and her feast day on February 1st.

The history of the St. Brigid's Cross is steeped in both Christian and pre-Christian Irish tradition. One popular legend tells the story of St. Brigid visiting a dying pagan chieftain on his deathbed. As she spoke to him about Christianity, she picked up some rushes from the floor and wove them into a cross to explain the concept of the Crucifixion. The chieftain, moved by her words and gesture, converted to Christianity before he died.

Another legend tells of St. Brigid being offered a poisoned drink by a jealous woman. To neutralize the poison, St. Brigid wove a cross from rushes and dipped it in the drink. The poison supposedly neutralized, and St. Brigid was unharmed.

While the exact origins of the St. Brigid's Cross are unclear, it's likely that it evolved from older Celtic pagan symbols. The four arms of the cross may represent the four elements or the four directions, while the rushes themselves were seen as sacred plants with protective properties.

The tradition of making and displaying St. Brigid's Crosses continues to this day in Ireland and among the Irish diaspora around the world. They are typically made on February 1st, St. Brigid's Day, and blessed by a priest. The crosses are then hung above doorways or windows to protect the home from harm.

In addition to its protective function, the St. Brigid's Cross is also seen as a symbol of peace, healing, and creativity. It is often given as a gift or used in traditional Irish blessings.

Here are some interesting facts about the St. Brigid's Cross:

- The cross is usually made from four rushes, but can also be made from straw or other materials.
- The four arms of the cross are typically tied together at the centre with a woven square.
- The cross is often blessed with holy water on St. Brigid's Day.
- The tradition of making St. Brigid's Crosses is thought to date back to pre-Christian times.
- The cross is a popular symbol of Irish culture and heritage.