



How To Make A St. Brigid's Cross

St Brigid's Day is on the 1st February every year.

Brigid lived during the time of St. Patrick. She was deeply inspired by his preachings and became a devoted Christian. She founded many convents all over Ireland, the most famous one was in Co. Kildare.

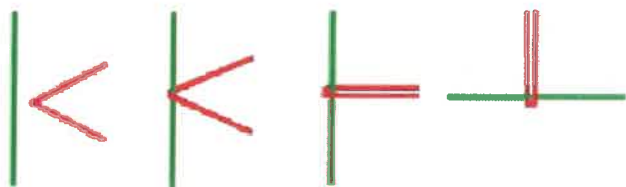
St Brigid is heavily known for her cross. They are linked together by a story about her weaving this form of a cross at the death bed of a pagan lord who upon hearing what the cross meant, asked to be baptized. Since then the cross of rushes has been venerated in Ireland.

Making a St. Brigid's cross is one of the traditional rituals in Ireland to celebrate the beginning of early spring, 1st February. These crosses are said to protect homes from fire and evil. The following are simple steps to create your own Brigid's Cross.

The cross is traditionally made from rushes around 8-12 inches long, drinking straws are a good substitute however if these aren't easy to come by.

Step 1:

Fold a straw in half around a vertical straw and hold the centre overlapping tightly between thumb and forefinger and rotate it once to the left.



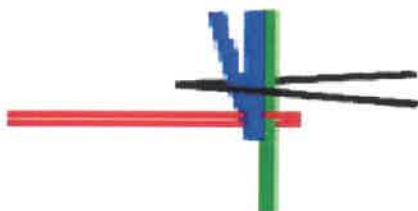
Step 2:

Add another pipe cleaner with its ends facing out to the right and rotate it to the left again.



Step 3:

Add another and rotate to the left and continue this process. Every time you add a pipe cleaner, you put it over all the pieces sticking up. Rotate and repeat.



Step 4:

When you reach your desired size secure the arms with elastic bands and trim the ends to the same length. The St Bridget's Cross is now ready to hang.