



Materials:

- 4 Brigid Crosses
- 19 Small Candles
- 2 Large Candle for the center
- Flowers: Snowdrops or another white flower
- Bowl of Water
- Lantern
- Torch

Roles:

- Druid 1
- Druid 2
- Herald
- Directions: North-East-South-West
- SOUTH-EAST
- SOUTH-WEST
- NORTH-WEST
- NORTH-EAST
- THE LADY BRIGHID

PREPARE:

A bowl of water, two candles or lanterns to create the gateway in the North East, a pot of snowdrops or similar very early flower to place in the centre. Each participant carries a candle lantern with a small candle lit: the same as, or representing, the one that was extinguished and relit at Alban Arthan. Lady Brighid carries a bowl of water and a somewhat larger candle lantern if available. Druid 1 will need to know the names of the participants in the North-East, South-East, South-West and North-West.

Each person enters from the West and circles sunwise to salute the East before taking their place in the circle.

☆ Perform the Opening Ceremony ☆

The Rite

HERALD:

Within this circle and in the apparent world, I declare the opening of this ceremony of Imbolc. Its symbol is the snowdrop, sacred symbol of the Goddess, that blooms bright in the snow.

DRUID 1:

-Recite the Hymn to Brigid

(name of participant in NE) is in the place of the young child, a place of winds and water, at the place of Imbolc, the season of Brigid. With water are we refreshed and cleansed, and in the wind does the spirit speak.

NORTH-EAST:

The snowdrops have pushed their way through the cold, wet earth, and we dream of your return.

ALL: Come back to us Brigid, and bring the Spring.

DRUID 1:

(name of participant in SE) is in the place of the rising light, a place of energy and fertility, Beltaine and the Hawk of May. Let our inspiration not fail us.

SOUTH-EAST:

The birds are ready to return from their winter homes, and the trees are waiting to bring forth new leaves.

ALL: Come back to us Brigid, and bring the Spring.

DRUID 1:

(name of participant in SW) is in the place of high summer, the feast of Lugh. You guard and feed the fire. Yours is the heart of the ceremony. May it be warm.

SOUTH-WEST:

The plants which were harvested and returned to you in the earth, are close to renewal.

ALL: Come back to us Brigid, and bring the Spring.



DRUID 1:

(name of participant in NW) is the one who chants and leads the rhythms of movement in the place of the caves of the soul, during the dark time of Samhain. May your voice, and our actions, be strong. May we ride well the storm of sound.

NORTH-WEST:

On this night we remember the Goddess of Winter, the Cailleach (kal-e-och), whose time is passing. Now we await the return of Brigid, Goddess of the Spring, keeper of the flame.

ALL: Come back to us Brigid, and bring the Spring.

DRUID 2:

See how all around us are air and fire. The leaves of the trees speak to us with the breath of air; and in the heart of the wood is the seed of fire. The leaves whisper of one who has come in youth and hope. Brigid is close.

NORTH-EAST:

Steps forward with snowdrops and says: Welcome Brigid, gentle goddess, bathed in the white milk of nurturing. The fire of spirit shines through your eyes. Bless us with the breath of life.

NE then walks to stand beside South who steps forward with candle and says:

SOUTH:

Welcome Brigid, Queen of the South, whose inner fire touches the sun. May the radiant warmth of your love be felt in our hearts. Bless us with your inspiration.

Both NE & S walk to stand either side of NW who steps forward and says:

NORTH-WEST:

Welcome Brigid, seer and guide, lead us safely through the sacred maze to the center of the spiral. Let the light of the Young One bless us with healing.

All three spiral around to the center led by NW. NE places snowdrops by central fire. S lights the 2 large candles or lanterns

NORTH-WEST:

Brigid, guard your fire, this is your night.

The three retrace the spiral to the Northeast, where South places the two lanterns/candles to form the Northeastern Gateway. They then return to their places.

DRUID 1:

In the name of the guardians of this Order, and of all those here to greet you, I bid you welcome Oh Goddess Brigid. Come and bless us with your presence once again.

BRIGID bearing water and lantern approaches the North-Eastern Gateway. She may have been waiting outside or, if she has been present in the circle, she moves from her position sunwise around the outside. She steps through the Gateway into the center of the circle where she puts down her lantern and raises the bowl of water, saying:

BRIGID:

I bring this water of healing and renewal, that all who would walk in my footsteps might bring joy and inspiration to these lands.

(She circles sunwise, starting with Druid 1, to pour a little water into the outstretched palms of each participant. They can then sip the water or bathe their brows, or do both)

saying to each:

"May this water bless you".

BRIGID: (returns to center, raises lantern)

Behold the light I have nurtured. Through the dark and the cold of winter we have each carried forward from the Winter Solstice a tiny flame. Soon the Light of the Sun will be strong enough to truly warm the earth once more. Guard well the seed of your light! (Goes to stand in NE Gateway).

If desired, complete the Flamekeeper's Rite at this time. The central section of the ceremony may be used for meditation, for healing, and/or for readings of poetry



Nineteen candles are lit for BRIGID

BRIGID:

Recites The Blessing of Brigid

I am under the shielding
Of good Brighid each day;
I am under the shielding
Of good Brighid each night.

I am under the keeping
Of the keeper of the flame,
Each early and late,
Every dark, every light.

Brighid is my comrade-woman,
Brighid is my maker of song,
Brighid is my helping-woman,
My choicest of woman, my guide.



-Each person takes a turn lighting a candle on the altar and reciting a passage as they do:

Nineteen candles are lit for Brigid.

1. Your first candle lit is your sunrise birth: the flame of your house reaching Ceugant's brow.
2. Second is the spark of your union with Bress, son of Elathan.
3. Third is the pillar of fire, as you took the veil, rising high and clear.
4. Fourth are brothers, Dagda the father, Broadb the Red, Medar, Ogma and Angus.
5. Fifth is eternal life's spring: that sings your name, in crystal gaze.
6. Sixth is the flame on your Altar, that never dies!
7. Seventh is the Grove a Llandwynwn, on Mona's shore where lovers tryst.
8. Eighth is the strength of your oxen of Dil - Fea and Fernea, the red and the black.
9. Ninth is the sigh of your breath, as new life grows from old, your bridge of truth.
10. Tenth is a milk white cow, of redden ears, the earth Mother's nectar, sweet.
11. Eleventh is a girdle, that spans night and day, yet heals all and remains.
12. Twelfth is a veil of Truth, is a flowering thorn, your Wearyall path.
13. Thirteenth is for your son Ruardan, to be reborn.
14. Fourteenth is the white light of the flowering word, born at sunrise - the molten sky.
15. Fifteenth is the grove at Kildare, with solid oak and crystal spring.
16. Sixteenth are shrines throughout Albion, in Church, Well and Wall.
17. Seventeenth is your will, of black iron, forged in the determination of a thousand eyes.
18. Eighteenth is a healing — the white dog at the portal, the chalice of your smile.
19. Nineteenth is a clarsach which spells - hours, days and signs, all in a silver bough.
20. Your last is your first, the beginning of the turning sea, the ending of the three.
21. The dancing sun in the hearts of all! The candle that never dies!

Flamekeeper's Rite:

Small candles are distributed to all and the lit from the large Brigid Candles

All participants will recite the following together:

I will Light my candle as Brigid lights it; Her candle is the sun and her altar the Earth. And as this little Candle lights this space, may her great candle light the Universe. Hail to you, oh foster-mother! Your love is a flame. Give me the strength to bear your tenderness, give me the power to bear your light. Let my heart become like a perpetual fire. Tended by priestesses of all my thoughts. Hail to you, oh women-comrade! Hail to you! on trusted Friend! I will share my confidences with you today for I know you will comfort me; I will kindle my heart with your light until I glow like gold.

Brigid takes the blessing bowl of water to the center and all will shine their candle light in it. She then sprinkles each participant 9 times. Then she say:

BRIGID:

A droplet of water from the river of Brigid.

A droplet of water from the well of Brigid.

a droplet of water From the hands of Brigid upon my heart and upon my head as Brigid's Child.

To Help me, to guard me, to Shield me, to surround me, to wash me and anoint me with the Grace of the Goddess.

A droplet for Health, a droplet for strength, a droplet for beauty, a droplet for art, a droplet for prosperity, a droplet for peace, a droplet for courage, a droplet for character, a droplet for the joy of Brigid, may her protection enfold me.

After readings/meditation/healing, enact

-closing ceremony-

