

St Brigid

The legend of the woven Cross



Legend has it that Brigid made her first cross from rushes she picked from the floor as she visited a pagan Chieftain who was dying. While sitting by his bed she began to weave the Rushes into the shape of the Cross and tell the stories of her Christian faith. The Cross became a symbol of peace and protection, protection of animals and from fire and disease and a blessing for home and hearth. Crosses were exchanged too in times of clan feuds as a sign of reconciliation. From that Time Irish people have never ceased to weave these Crosses. These rushes represent our hopes, our dreams, our gifts and our efforts in working towards a more caring society.

Look. She is gathering the dreams to weave something new. She gathers our rushes of sorrow and gladness, of happiness and pain, tears and laughter, kindness and caring, of voluntary groups and organisations of families, relations and friends, of schools and hospitals, of words and deeds offered in hope, in faith and in love.

She is weaving them all with loving hands into a new form, a richer more beautiful creation. God, weaves patiently and persistently with the rushes of our lives.

He invites us to keep offering him shreds of our suffering and the stuff of our dreams and to take our place beside him to weave the shape of new creation.