

# Lá 'Le Bríde – Beannú na gCroiseanna



## During Mass after the Liturgy of the Word

*'Anois teacht an Earraigh,  
beidh an lá ag dul chun  
síneadh ...'*

New life, new light in nature  
– it is appropriate that  
Brigid's feast be at this time  
of year, she who was so close  
to nature and to God's  
creatures.

We celebrate her festival by  
making St Brigid's crosses  
from the green of nature,  
having them blessed and  
hung as a sign of and prayer  
for her protection.

We celebrate with prayer and  
feasting beginning on this  
eve.

For the Celts, the night came  
before the day, so St Brigid's  
feast started at sunset the  
previous evening. We made  
the crosses, we have apple cake, *bárin*  
breac, butter freshly churned.

Cake, or bread and butter, was left out for  
Brigid herself, for it was believed that she  
travelled around that evening, blessing  
the people and the livestock. A special  
sheaf, too, was left out as a treat for the  
family cow.

## Blessing

Father of all creation and Lord of light,  
you have given us life and entrusted your  
creation to us to use and to care for it.

We ask you to bless these crosses made  
of green rushes in memory of holy Brigid,  
who used such a cross to recall and to



teach of your Son's life, death and  
resurrection.

May these crosses be a sign of our  
sharing in the Paschal Mystery of your  
Son and a sign of protection of our lives,  
our land and its creatures during the  
coming year, and always;  
Through Brigid's intercession, we ask this  
through Christ, Our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The crosses are sprinkled with holy water*  
May the blessing of God, Father, Son and  
Holy Spirit, be on this cross, on the place  
where it hangs and on everyone who  
looks at it.

**Amen.**

*To the people:* Are you  
resolved, with God's  
assistance, to obey his laws  
and those of his Church, and  
to lead blameless lives, like  
the great St Brigid?

*All: We are.*

*Celebrant:* Take the cross  
with which the great St  
Brigid fought against her  
enemies – the world, the  
flesh and the devil – and  
remember to bear the  
crosses of this life with true  
Christian fortitude.

Remember the many  
victories gained by Brigid  
under its protecting  
influence and bravely follow  
her example.

## Prayer over the people before the dismissal at the end of Mass

Love to thee, O Lord. Glory  
and thanksgiving for this Eucharist and  
every meal which you have ever given us!  
O Redeemer who has given us life, grant  
us eternal life in heaven! May we be seven  
times better off at the end of the year in  
the greatest graces and smallest sins!  
Give health of soul and body in people,  
and their cattle safe from accident, from  
the year's hardship, from fever and  
diseases. If the eternal Father sees  
anyone among us here present in doubt,  
may he counsel and guide them for our  
good, so that our souls may attain eternal  
glory; that he may keep the temptations  
of the devil and the world from our hearts  
and our minds, and keep us in a state of  
grace so that our souls may attain eternal  
glory. **Amen.**



### San Aifreann, i ndiadg Liotúirge an Bhriathair

*Anois teacht an Earraigh, beidh an lá ag dul chun síneadh ...'*

Saol nua, solas an Earraigh sa nádúr - is cuí la 'le Bhríde ag an am seo den bhliain. Bhí gaol ag Bríd leis an dúlra, idir dhaoine, ainmhithe agus planndaí. Beannaítear croiseanna inniu agus muid ag ceiliúradh lá 'le Bríde – croiseanna Bríde, deanta as glasra an nádúir.

Beannófar iad anois agus crocfaar in airde iad mar chomhartha, nó mar phaidir ag iarraidh coimirce Bhríde.

Ceiliúraimid and Fhéile seo le nósanna speisialta, le fleá agus le féasta in onóir do Bhríde Bheannaithe. Tosaíodh oíche aréir – mar i gcultúir na gCeilteach thosaigh an lá le dul faoi na gréine an tráthnóna roimhe. Tosaíodh le déanamh na gcoiseanna seo.

Oíche 'le Bríde, bíonn rudaí deasa le hithe againn – toitín úll, báirín breac, im úr. Is gnáthach císte, nó arán agus im (úr) a fhágáil amach do Bhríd í féin, mar gabhann sí thart an oíche sin ag beannú idir dhaoine agus ainmhithe. Fágtar punann speisialta (coirce) amach mar chineáltas don bhó.

### Beannacht

A Athair na nDúl, a Thiarna an tsolais, is tú a thug beatha dúinn agus a bhronn an chruinne mhór orainn lena úsáid agus lena chaomhnú.

Iarriamid ort do bheannacht a bhronnadh ar na croiseanna seo a rinneadh in onóir do Bhríd naofa. Bhain sise úsáid as a leithéid seo de chrois mar chuimhniú ar pháis, ar bháis, agus ar aiséirí do Mhic agus í a múineadh sin do mhuintir a linne.

Go raibh na croiseanna seo mar thuar ar ár bpáirteachas i rúndiamhar Cásca do Mhic agus, trí eadarghuí Bhríde, mar chomhartha ar do choimirce dár mbeatha, dár gcuid talaimh agus dá bhfuil ann de dhúile beo, i gcaitheamh na bliana seo agus i gcónaí. Tré Chríost ár dTiarna.

**Amen.**

*Croitheann an Sagart uisce coiscithe ar na croiseanna*

Go dtaga beannacht Dé, Athar, Mhic agus Spioraid Naoimh, anuas ar na croiseanna seo, ar an áit ina mbeidh siad ar crocadh agus ar ghach éinne a fhéachann orthu.

**Amen.**

*Leis na daoine:* An bhfuil sé beartaithe agaibh, le cuidiú Dé, bheith umhal dá dhlí agus do dhlí na heaglaise, agus bhur saol a chaitheamh go hionraic, mar a rinne Bríd bheannaithe?

*Pobal:* **Tá.**

*Sagart:* Tóg an chrois lenar throid Bríd naofa in aghaidh a naimhde – an saol, an cholainn agus an diabhal – agus cuimhnigh ar chroiseanna na beatha a iompar le neart fíor-Chriostaí. Cuimhnigh ar na buanna go léir a bhí ag Bríd faoina

tionnchur chosantúil agus bí cróga agus lean a heisiomlarsan.

### Urnaí os cionn na ndaoine

Díograis duit, a Thiarna. Glóir, altú agus buíochas duit ar son an Aifrinn (na hEocairiste) seo agus ar son gach coda a thug tú ariamh dúinn.

A Shlánaitheoir a thug a bheatha dúinn, go dtuga tú an bheatha siorraí ins na Flaithis dúinn!

Gura seacht fearr i gcionn na bliana a bhéas muid, ins na grásta is mó agus ins na peacaí is lú!

Sláinte anama is coirp sna daoine. Go raibh a n-eallach slán ar thubaiste, ar sheirbhís na bliana, ar fhiabhras nó ar aicideacha, agus go speisialta ná raibh aon rud inár mbealach a choinneodh an ghlóir shíorraí de dhola ar ár n-anamacha. Má fheiceann an tAthair Síorraí aon duine againn anseo i láthair idir dhá chomhairle, go gcuire sé i gcomhairle agus i gcasán ár leasa sinn fa choinne ár n-anamacha chun na glóire síorraí, le cathaithe an Diabhail agus an tSaoil shalagh ghránna a choinneáil ar stáid na grásta fa choinne ár n-anam chun na glóire síorraí. Amen.

*Some of this material comes from The Year in Ireland by Kevin Danaher. Blessing approved by the National Centre for Liturgy.*

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