

Doire Bhrighid version 17 October 2017



# *Doire Bhrighid*

## *The Grove of Brigid*



*(Bride, by John Duncan)*

Version 17 October 2017

*Doire Bhrighid*, the Grove of Brigid is an OBOD Seed Grove, dedicated to the Celtic Goddess Brigid. This powerful Celtic Goddess and Celtic Saint is the patroness of Druids, Bards, Blacksmiths (and fine crafts people), domestic arts (esp. brewers!), seers, midwives and healers. There is no part of our life that She does not touch.

Our first ritual was held on Imbolc, 2002 in Oakland. This is our general ritual format, a foundation for the eight sacred Druid ceremonies:

This is our 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 version of this ritual.

### Preparations:

**Attire:** (Traditionally, Druids wear white robes with colored tabards.)



**Bard**

**Ovate**

**Druid**

Altar decorations may include items such as:

Altar cloth: White, or appropriate to season

Brigid: White candle, Brigid figurine, Bride's cross (any symbol of Brigid)

Other Deities: Colored candles and images for other deities as appropriate for season

Other: Candle color and décor as appropriate to ritual, i.e. for Samhain – black candles

Libations: Seasonally appropriate (food and drink)

Blessing Bowl: Bowl, white stone, floating candle, lighter

Belled Wand: Wand of apple or oak with nine silver bells

Ritual scripts on the altar.

Wooden Wands on the altar.

(these items are essential to the ritual.)

## Ritual Roles

### Druid (Drùidh)

The Druid represents the third level of OBOD, the Druid Grade. S/he sets up sacred space for the ritual, leads (or co-leads with Herald), facilitates, guides, instructs, plans and organizes Grove events. The druid, having passed through Bard and Ovate grades in OBOD, can take any role in the ritual if needed. If there is more than one Druid present, they share these duties, or one can be designated Grove *Màthair* (Grove Mother) or Grove *Athair* (Grove Father).

### Herald (*Teachdaire*)

The Herald takes responsibility of the entire ritual (as master of ceremonies), announces the different sections of the ritual, creates and leads the central working of the ritual, and basically sets the tempo and keeps it rolling along.

### Bard (bàrd)

The Bard represents the first level of OBOD, the Bardic Grade, and invokes Brigid. S/he also leads the first meditation, the “light body exercise”.

### Ovate

The Ovate represents the second level of OBOD, the Ovate Grade. S/he prepare Brigid’s blessing bowl, and is responsible for both seership and healing in the ritual. These duties can be divided up among all the Ovates present. Ovates can also take the role of Bard in ritual, if needed.

Herald: Put down your scripts and take up your wands as the Druid leads us in connecting to the three sacred spaces of this realm

**DRUID** I will explain and then you will do.

Bring your left hand to rest on your heart and point your wand skyward in salute to the stars above.

Now, feel the earth beneath your feet. Feel your feet reaching down to the power of the earth's core.

Once you have that connection, point your wand down towards the earth beneath and draw a circle.

Next, point your wand in the direction of the Sea. (Here in California, this means pointing towards the Ocean in the west.)

Reach out with your wand to connect and draw in the power of the depths of our planet's united ocean.

With your feet being your anchor to the earth, take your left hand and point toward the Sea. Hold onto to this connection to the sea.

Finally, all turn back to the center.

Bring your wand back up pointing to the sky above.

Feel yourself connecting to the air above and keep on going and reaching upward drawing in power till you connect to our sun.

Draw upon the power of the sun and then reach for the stars.

You are now connected to all realms three by your feet, your hand, and your wand. Hold this connection.

Now bring both your hands inward to your heart. Hold the power of all realms three and embrace your connection to them all.

In silence drop your hands to your sides. Place your wand down on the altar.

**Herald:** Now, take up your scripts, then the Druid will honor Brigid and bless this space.

**Druid:** (Holds the wand with bells [symbol of Holy Fire] and sains, (offer a blessing.) Between the Realms, Sea, Land, and Sky, I sain, bless, and purify. We are in the presence of Her holy flame. We are blessed in Brigids name.

**Herald:** Welcome to *Doire Bhrighid*, the Grove of Brighid. We are here to celebrate (name of ceremony), as Druids. (Herald may describe the festival in her/his own words.)

Brighid	February		
Beltaine	May		
Alban Hefin	June	Summer Solstice	
Samhain	October		
Alban Arthan	December	Winter Solstice	(Yule)
<del>Elban Eilir</del>	<del>Spring Equinox</del>	<del>(Ostara)</del>	
<del>Lughnassad</del>	<del>August 1<sup>st</sup></del>	<del>(Lammas)</del>	
<del>Alban Elfed</del>	<del>Autumn Equinox</del>	<del>(Mabon)</del>	

**[Light Body Exercise.]**

**Herald:** “Next the Bard will lead us in the light body exercise.”

**Bard:** Sit with your back upright and feet placed firmly on the floor with your hands resting comfortably on your thighs..

Close your eyes and relax your body.

If necessary, move in your chair until you feel comfortable...

Focus for a while on your breathing...

When you feel relaxed and calm, move the focus of your awareness to the soles of your feet...

Try to become as aware as possible of only the soles of your feet...

Imagine them shining with light and filled with vitality...

After a while...

move your awareness to your ankles...

Your thighs...

Your sex...

Your stomach...

Your chest...

Your neck and shoulders...

Your face...

the crown of your head...

become aware of your whole body...

filled with light, radiance, vitality and strength...

Hold it for a moment in silence...

[Wait a moment]

We are fully in the here and now.

**[Peace in all directions:]**

**Herald:** "Next the Druid will lead us as we call for peace in all directions This will be said in English and then in Gaelic."

**Druid:** "Deep within the still center of my being may I find peace. Silently within the quiet of the Grove may I share peace. Gently within the greater circle of humankind may I radiate peace. Now, let us together call in peace in all directions starting with the East..."

"May there be peace in the East"

"May there be peace in the West"

"May there be peace in the South"

"May there be peace in the North"

"May there be peace throughout the whole world."

**All:** "Sith, Sith, Sith " {Shee}

*"Guma bithidh síth anns an Ear."* (East)

**All** "Goomah bee-ug shee ownz on ee-yar"

*"Guma bithidh síth anns an Deas."* (West)

**All** "Goomah bee-ug shee ownz on jesh"

*"Guma bithidh síth anns an Siar."* (South)

**All** "Goomah bee-ug shee ownz on shar"

*"Guma bithidh síth anns an Tuath."* (North)

**All** "Goomah bee-ug shee ownz on Too-ath"

*"Guma bithidh síth troimh an Talamh."*

**All** "Goomah bee-ug shee troyv on tell-ahv"

**All:** Sith, Sith, Sith {Shee}

**[Acknowledging the three realms.]**

**Herald:** “Now the Ovate will acknowledge the Three Realms and the sacred tree at its center.”

**Ovate:** “We have come together, here and now, to stand in the center of all lands three.

We stand in the center to take on the role of the world tree.

Here, we recognize the sacredness of Sky, Land, and Sea.

We are the tree that is the bridge between the sacred spaces of Above, Below, and Between.

We are the bridge that unites all the realms three.”

**[Brigid Invoked]**



**Herald:** “Next the Bard will lead us as we invoke our patron and guardian, Brigid of the Four Ways,.

**Bard:** "Now we will call out her four ways, in call and response, in English and Gaelic."

**Bard:** "We call Brigid"

**Bard:** "Hear our voices"

**Bard:** *Brighid an bard*

**("Bree on barrd")**

**Bard:** "Brigid the Bard"

**Bard:** "We call Brigid "

**Bard:** "Steady our hands"

**Bard:** *Brighid an gobhainn*

**("Bree on go-hayn")**

**Bard:** "Brigid the Blacksmith"

**Bard:** "We call Brigid"

**Bard:** "Show us the Way"

**Bard:** *Brighid an fàidh*

**("Bree on fayd")**

**Bard:** "Brigid the Seer"

**Bard:** "We call Brigid"

**Bard:** "Sooth our beings"

**Bard:** *Brighid an slànaghear*

**("Bree on shlangear")**

**Bard:** "Brigid the Healer"

**All** Chant: Brighid (pronounced BREE) Brighid, Brighid, Brighid.

### **[Brigid's Blessing Bowl]**

(Have a bowl sacred to Brigid on the altar, with a white stone and a floating candle.)

**Herald:** "Brigid is a Goddess of Fire and Water; Earth, and Air. Our Ovate will charm a bowl of water in Brigid's name, that each may receive Her blessings. "

**(Ovate lights the floating candle.)**

**Ovate:** Through fire we come to Brigid's well, to seek her blessing spiritual, I sain this bowl in Brigid's name, with water and stone, and Holy flame. I ask of Brigid her loving aid, as with breath of air the charm is made. (Ovate blows into the bowl.)

### **[Those who seek the healing gifts of Brigid.]**

**Ovate:** "Now, all who need healing can ask, and I, who have been given the gift of healing in Brigid's name, will recite Brigid's blessing over you." (Explain how one at a time, a participant can call out for themselves and/or for someone else in the need of the gift of healing.)

**Ovate:** "Brigid's four-fold blessing upon you. *Guma thu slànaich agus bu slàn.* May you heal and be well."

### [Druid's Prayer:]

**Herald:** “Now let the Druid will lead us in saying the Druid Prayer<sup>1</sup> together in English.”

**Druid** “Grant, O Spirit thy protection  
 And in protection, strength,  
 And in strength, understanding,  
 And in understanding, knowledge,  
 And in knowledge, the knowledge of justice,  
 And in the knowledge of justice, the love of it,  
 And in the love of it, the love of all existences,  
 And in the love of all existences,  
 The love of Spirit and all goodness.”

### [Invoking Awen]

**Herald:** “Now the Bard will lead us in the sound of Awen in Iolo’s Welsh.”

**Bard:** Iolo Morganwg gave to Druidry the symbols of the three lines and three dots. The three lines are the rays of the sun, the central ray represents the sun at its zenith during the summer and winter solstices, the left hand ray the sun at midday on the vernal equinox, and the right hand ray at noon during the autumn equinox. Iolo also gave us the vocalization of Awen as the primary vowels of O, I, and Ew.

“The Awen I sing—from the deep I bring it.”<sup>2</sup>”

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<sup>1</sup> This is the Gorsedd Prayer, called the *Prayer of the Gwyddoniad*, from the *Great Book of Margam*. (*Secrets of the Druids*, compiled & edited by John Matthews, 2002, Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, pp 56-57. This version substitutes the concept of Spirit for the original usage of the concept of God.

<sup>2</sup> Kristopher Hughes, *The Book of Celtic Magic: Transformative Teachings from the Cauldron of Awen* < 2014.

Welsh: Yr Awen a ganaf—or dwfn dygaf  
 (Pronounced: “Urr Ah-when a Gan-av oh-rrr Doo-vun uh Dug-av)  
 “Now, intone these vowels with me..”

“Ohhhh”

“Eeee”

“Ewww”

**Herald:** “And now, let us participate in the main working of this ritual.”

**[INSERT MAIN WORKING HERE]**

**[Acknowledging the Gifts of the Grove:]**

Herald: “Let the Bard explain the gifts of the Bards”

Bard: Creative acts are related to our tradition and to being a bard. For example, teachings, *Ionnsachadh* (Ee-yung-sa-hug) and storytelling *Eisteddfod* (est-o-fed) I ask participants if they have anything to share about something they have done, between our last meet and this one, that was creative and if they have anything to share today.

**After Sharing:**

**[Tabhartas (Pronounced tav-artis) Offerings to Land, Ancestors and Gods]**

**Herald:** “Let us show our gratitude to the sacred forces that surround us. Let the Bard make a blessing to the spirits of the Land. Let the Ovate make a blessing to the Ancestors. Let the Druid make a

blessing to the Gods. This thrice blessed water will be poured out at the conclusion of the ceremony by the Druid as our offering.”

**Bard:** (Lift the vessel and say something about the Spirits of the Land and pass it to the Ovate)

**Ovate:** (Say something about the Ancestors and pass the vessel to the Druid)

**Druid:** (Say something about the Divine/Gods and put it back on the altar.)

### **[Druid's Vow:]**

**Herald:** And now let the Druid lead us in saying the Druid's vow together sending peace with the sacred word 'Sith' (Shee).

**Druid:** Together:

**All:** We swear by peace and love to stand,  
heart to heart, and hand in hand.

Mark, O Spirit, and hear us now,  
Confirming this our sacred vow”.

**All:** Sith, Sith, Sith {Shee}

### **[Calling Peace in all directions once again]**

**Herald:** “Now as our ritual concludes let the Druid lead us again in calling for peace in all directions in English and Gaelic.”

**Druid:** “We call in peace together starting in the East:

**ALL:** May there be peace in the East

May there be peace in the West

May there be peace in the South

May there be peace in the North

May there be peace throughout the whole world.”

All: Sith, Sith, Sith {Shee}

*"Guma bithidh síth anns an Ear."* (East)

All: "Goomah bee-ug shee ownz on ee-yar"

*"Guma bithidh síth anns an Deas."* (West)

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All: "Goomah bee-ug shee ownz on Too-ath"

*"Guma bithidh síth troimh an Talamh."*

All: "Goomah bee-ug shee troyv on tell-ahv"

All: Sith, Sith, Sith {Shee}

### **[Acknowledging the Three Realms:]**

**Herald:** "It is time that we depart. Let the Ovate recall the importance of the three realms and the sacred tree."

**Ovate:** "We came together to stand in the center of all lands three. We stood in the center and we took on the role of the world tree. We recognized the sacredness of Sky, Land, and Sea. We were the tree that was the bridge between the sacred spaces of Above, Below, and Between, We were the bridge that united all the realms three."

### [Bidding Farewell to Brigid:]

**Herald:** “We thank our patron and guardian, Brigid of the Four Ways, for She continues to teach us, empower us, heal us and bless each one of us. Let the Bard lead us in closing our ritual in call and response:

**Bard:** *“As the water recedes and fire dies down,”*

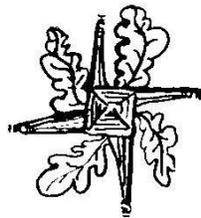
**Bard:** *“We stand again on ordinary ground”*

**Bard:** *“Let holy light illumine our hearts.”*

**Bard:** *“And our memory hold all, ‘ere we depart.”*

**Herald:** “May the blessing of Holy Brigid, the spirits of our ancestors, and the spirits of the land we dwell on always be upon us. I declare this ceremony of (NAME) is closed in the apparent world. May its inspiration continue within ourselves.”

SINÉ



Graphic by Cedar