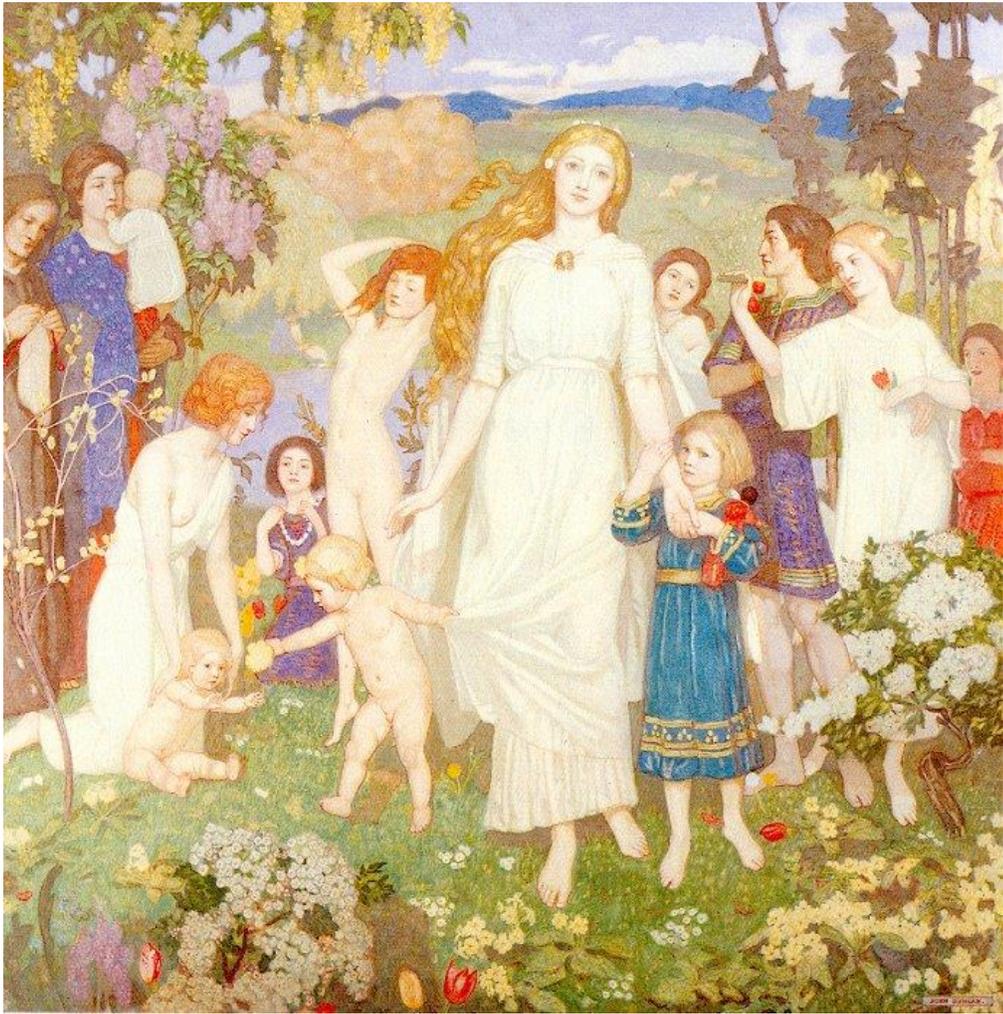




Doire Bhrighid
The Grove of Brigid



(Bride, by John Duncan)

Doire Bhrighid, the Grove of Brigid is an OBOD Seed Grove, dedicated to the Celtic Goddess, Brighid. 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 9th June 2015 variation of this ritual.

Preparations:

Attire: Traditionally, Druids wear white robes with colored tabards. In our tradition Bards are encouraged to wear something blue; Ovates - green; Druids - white or gold.



Bard



Ovate



Druid

Altar decorations may include items such as:

Altar cloth:	White, or appropriate to season
Brighid:	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

(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. Druid, having passed through Bard and Ovate grades in OBOD, can take any role in the ritual if needed. If there are 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.

NOTE: If not everyone brings their copy of the ritual then the suggestion is that for the ‘ALL’ segments we do it in call and response style.

Preparation:

Acknowledging Sacred Space:

Druid: (Holds a wand (symbol of Holy Fire))

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 Brigid’s 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.)**

Samhain -	November 1 st	(Halloween)
Alban Arthan -	Winter Solstice	(Yule)
Imbolc -	February 1 st	(Brigid)
Elban Eilir -	Spring Equinox	(Ostara)
Beltaine -	May 1 st	Beltaine)
Alban Hefin -	Summer Solstice	(Litha)
Lughnassad -	August 1 st	(Lammas)
Alban Elfed -	Autumn Equinox	(Mabon)

Light Body Exercise:

Bard: We begin with the Light Body Exercise. 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 slowly upwards, to your ankles,

Your calves,

Your thighs,

Your sex,

Your belly,

Your chest,

Your shoulders,

Up your neck,

Then into your head,
 And finally you reach the crown of your head.
 Become aware of your whole body, filled with light,
 radiance,
 vitality,
 and strength.

Celtic Cross:

Druid: [Stand, facing the center] We call for peace in all directions, in the form of the Celtic Cross.

Then we will recognize, acknowledge, and invoke Awen, the source of inspiration, the flowing spirit that is our Bardic inner guide and muse; and lastly in honor of our Celtic ancestors, we will repeat this in Gaelic. (this is translated into Scottish Gaelic.)

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.

Awen, Awen, Awen

Gaelic Speaker: Call and response

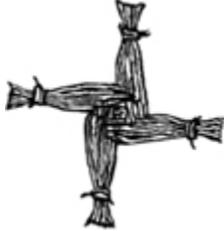
Guma bithidh síth anns an Ear. (East) All repeat
Guma bithidh síth anns an Deas. (West) All repeat
Guma bithidh síth anns an Siar. (South) All repeat
Guma bithidh síth anns an Tuath. (North) All repeat
Guma bithidh síth troimh an Talamh. All repeat

All: *Imbas, Imbas, Imbas*

Druid

We now stand in the center of all lands three.
 We stand beneath the center, that is the world tree,
 Here, we recognize the sacredness of Sky, Land, and Sea.
 This tree is the bridge between the sacred spaces of Above, Below, and Between,
 This is the bridge that unites all the realms three.

Brigid Invoked:



Herald: We invoke our patron and guardian, Brigid of the Four Ways, for She teaches, empowers and blesses each one of us.

Bard:

We call Brigid
 Hear our voices
Brigid an bàrd
 Brigid the Bard

We call Brigid
 Steady our hands
Brigid an gobhainn
 Brigid the Blacksmith

We call Brigid
 Show us the Way
Brigid an fàidh
 Brigid the Seer

We call Brigid
 Sooth our beings
Brigid an slànaighear
 Brigid the Healer

All Chant: Brigid (pronounced BREE) **Brigid, Brigid, Brigid,**

Brigid's Blessing Bowl:

Have a bowl sacred to Her 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, and each may receive Her blessings.

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. **(blows into bowl)**

Ovate then "sains" each participant by sprinkling some of the waters from the bowl onto each person, or dipping a finger into the bowl and inscribing Brigid's cross on the forehead of each person, saying;

Ovate: Brigid's four-fold blessing upon you."
(or whatever the Goddess inspires Ovate to say.)

Gaelic Blessing: *Guma thu slànaich agus bu slàn.* **(May you heal and be well.)**

Druid's Prayer:

Herald: Now let us say the Druid Prayer¹:

All:
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.
Awen, Awen Awen

¹ 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.

Gaelic Speaker :

*Thoir dhuinn, O Spiorad, do dion
 Agus anns an dion, Neart
 Agus anns an Neart, Tuigse
 Agus anns an Tuigse, Eòlas,
 Agus anns an Eòlas, an t-Eòlas Ceartais
 Agus anns an t-Eòlas Cheartais, an gràdh a ghabhas sinn ann.
 Agus anns an gràdh ut, an gràdh a tha air uile a th'ann
 Agus anns a' ghràdh a tha air uile a th'ann
 An Gràdh Spiorad agus uile Mathas.*

ALL: *Imbas, Imbas, Imbas*

MAIN WORKING

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

INSERT MAIN WORKING HERE

Herald: We are many gifted like a grove of trees. Let the voices of the Bards be heard. Share with us your teachings, *Ionnsachadh* [Ee-yung-sa-hug) and your stories, *Eisteddfod* (est-o-fed).

Conclusion:**Tabhartas** (Pronounced tav-artis) **(Offerings)**

Herald: Let us show our gratitude to the sacred forces that surround us. Let the Bard make offering to the spirits of the Land. Let the Ovate make offering to the Ancestors. Let the Druid make offering to the Gods.

The vessel, filled with water, is passed to the three, each who pour a bit on the ground.

Bard: We give thanks to the Spirits of the Land. **(pours and passes to Ovate)**

Ovate: We give thanks to the Ancestors **(pours and passes to Druid)**

Druid: We give thanks to the Gods **(pours and empties cup)**

The Druid empties the bowl of water, so all is given. Other offerings may be made by members at this time as well, if desired. (If this ritual is indoors, a second, larger vessel can be provided, and later taken outside and poured on the ground by the host.)

Druid's Vow:

Herald: And now let us hold hands and say the Druid's Vow

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

Druid: Now let us send peace throughout the world by chanting the sacred word for peace, *sidhe* (**pronounced SHEE**)

All: Sidhe, Sidhe, Sidhe,

Druid: [**Stand, facing the center**] Ere we depart we call for Peace in all directions, in the form of the Celtic Cross. In honor of our Celtic ancestors, we will repeat this in Gaelic. (**this is translated into Scottish Gaelic.**)

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.
Awen, Awen, Awen

Gaelic Speaker call and response

Guma bithidh síth anns an Ear. **(East) All repeat**
Guma bithidh síth anns an Deas. **(West) All repeat**
Guma bithidh síth anns an Siar. **(South) All repeat**
Guma bithidh síth anns an Tuath. **(North) All repeat**
Guma bithidh síth troimh an Talamh. **All repeat**

All: *Imbas, Imbas, Imbas*

Druid

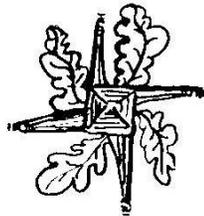
We have stood in the center of all lands three.
 We have stood beneath the center, that is the world tree,
 We have recognized the sacredness of Sky, Land, and Sea.
 This tree was the bridge between the sacred spaces of Above, Below, and Between,
 This is the bridge that united all the realms three.

Herald: We thank our patron and guardian, Brigid of the Four Ways, for She continues to teach us, empower us and bless each one of us.

All: As the water recedes and fire dies down,
 We stand again on ordinary ground
 Let holy light illumine our hearts.
 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