

Imbolc Ritual - 2018

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1. Offerings

This section describes the offerings made to the various hallows, the Kindred and the attendees of the rite.

- **Outdwellers:** Ale
- **Danu:** Steel-cut Oats
- **Fire:** Incense
- **Well:** Silver
- **Tree:** Water from the well
- **Mannánan Mac Lir:** Whiskey
- **Sídhe:** Milk & honey
- **Sinsearach:** Bread
- **Túath dé Dannan:** Whiskey
- **Brigid (Key Offerings):** Herbed bread
- **Final Sacrifice:** Sage and bay leaves
- **Waters of Life:** TBD

2. Initiating the Rite

{Horn blower}: After all have circled the area blow horn 3 times

{Speaker}: Speaks after horn call

Once again we have gathered together as one people, to honor our Kindred and celebrate the changing of the seasons.

Around us the spirits of nature move, amongst us our ancestors gather and before us our gods stand tall.

At this time, in this place, we set aside all that we brought with us. We focus our thoughts and our actions on this moment while we commune with the Kindred.

3. Outdwellers

{Speaker}:

Lugh, son of Ethniu and Cian; grandson of Balor and Dian Cecht.

Lugh, fierce striker; sling thrower.

Lugh, vanquisher of the Formosans; liberator of the Túath Dé Dannan.

Lugh Lámfhada, we make this offering to you. Stand here with us, and ward us from the Fomorians and all others that would interfere with our work here tonight.

Lugh, accept our offering!

{Speaker}: Places offering on the altar, by the Lugh statue

4. Purification

{Speaker}: Walks around the circle playing the singing bowl, while speaking

Let the sound go through your body, your bones, and your being. Let it bring you into harmony with the world around you.

As the water falls on to you let it cleanse away the cares of the world.

{Assistant}: Walking behind the speaker, asperge the attendees with a tree branch dipped in the well

5. Meditation

Insert meditation here

6. Honoring the Earth Mother

{Speaker}:

Great Danu, mother of all, our life is nourished from your bounty.

You give the food that nourishes us, and the wealth that enriches us.

You are the very ground upon which we walk.

We honor you and thank you for the bounty you bestow upon us all.

{Speaker}: Speaks and sprinkles cornmeal in the offering bowl

Great Danu, accept this offering!

{All}: Response

Danu, accept our offerings!

7. Statement of Purpose

{Speaker}:

We are here to celebrate the high-day of Imbolc. This high-day is dedicated to the Goddess Brigid; on this day we remember her and give to her the honor she is due. In turn, we look to see her blessing in our lives.

In the world, we are almost half way through winter. Beneath the snow the land lies dormant, waiting for the return of warmth. In our daily lives, we now chafe against our confinement and long for the release that comes with the spring.

8. Recreating the Cosmos

{Speaker}: Moves to the fire

Flame, with this incense let you be purified and transcend the limits of this world. You are now The Sacred Fire; our connection to the heavens and the gods.

{Speaker}: Incense is lit from the fire. Moves to the well

Water, With this silver, let you be purified and transcend the limits of this world. You are now The Sacred Well; our connection to the underworld and our ancestors.

{Speaker}: Silver is placed in the well. Moves to the tree

Tree, with this fire from The Sacred Fire, and water from The Sacred Well, you become The World Tree; that which connects and binds the three worlds together.

{Speaker}: Water from the well is lightly sprinkled on the tree, and the stick if incense is swirled around it.

Like the tree is rooted in the land, so too do we stand firmly upon it.
Like the tree is encircled by the seas, so too are we encircled by them.
Like the tree dwells beneath the sky, so too do we live beneath it.

Once again we remember our place in the three realms, and await the coming forth of the kindred.

9. Opening the Gates

{Speaker}: Addressing the Gatekeeper

Fáilte Mannánan Mac Lir. Welcome Manannán, son of the sea.

We give praise and honor to you, o mighty god who walks between the worlds with ease. You who wreaths yourself in mist, and frequents the liminal places of the world, we call to you.

Accept our offering! Lend your might to ours, and open the gates between the worlds.

{Speaker}: Places the offering into the offering bowl

Manannán, make the Sacred Fire a gate! Manannán, make the Sacred Well a gate! Manannán, make the World Tree a gate!

Let the gates be opened!

{All}

Let the gates be opened!

10. Inviting the Kindred

10.1. Inviting the Shining Ones

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Túath Dé Dannan! Welcome Shining Ones!

We make space at our fire for the Túath dé Dannan, for the gods of our people, and the gods of this land.

You who nurture our spirits, you who challenge us to grow, you who we return to when we pass from this world.

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

{Sacrificer}: Speaks and makes offering

Shining Ones accept our offering!

{All}: Response

Shining Ones accept our offering!

10.2. Inviting the Nature Spirits

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Sídh! Welcome Nature Spirits!

We make space at our fire for The Good people, for the spirits of this land, of its plants and trees, its birds and beasts and its waters.

You who have dwelled in this land before man, who protect it, who nurture it.

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

{Sacrificer}: Speaks and makes offering

Sídh, accept our offering!

{All}: Response

Sídh, accept our offering!

10.3. Inviting the Ancestors

{Offering}: Bread

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Sinsearach. Welcome Ancestors. We make space at our fire for our mighty ancestors, for our honored ancestors, and for our beloved ancestors.

You who are of our blood and bone, you who are of our spirit and heart, you who have walked this world and left it before us.

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

{Sacrificer}: Speaks and makes offering

Sinsearach, accept our offering!

{All}: Response

Sinsearach, accept our offering!

11. Key Offerings

{Speaker}:

Brigid, ancient Goddess, Triple Goddess, goddess of many names, and many places, today we honor you. You are the practical patroness of the healing arts, smith-craft, and poetry. You are the bringer of justice and equality. You inspire us, you heal us, and you teach us. You have survived the oncoming of Christianity as their Saint for over 1500 years. Before this, you were the great Goddess Brigid and remained so under many names for thousands of years. Worshiped by the Celts in the British Isles, Scotland, Ireland, Manx, Wales, England, France and beyond... you are our goddess of the eternal flame. You are our goddess of the wells, the rivers, and lakes. Your name was given to many of these as you are both the goddess of Fire and of Water. Today we welcome you Brigid. May our hearts open to Brigid and allow her to inspire and heal us.

Play song and pass out white candles, instruct everyone to light each other's candle in the circle

{Sacrificer}: Speaks and makes offering

Brigid, accept our offering!

{All}: Response

Brigid, accept our offering!

12. Prayer of Sacrifice

{Speaker}: Speaks

We clear our minds and hearts from the cold winter. Brigid, we welcome your warmth!

Goddess of the eternal flame and goddess of the sacred, wells we honor you!

Goddess of the smiths and goddess of the poets, we honor you!

Goddess of the healing and goddess the hearth, we honor you!

{Speaker}: Speaks and places wine near the Brigid statue

Brigid, accept this offering!

{All}:

Brigid, accept our offerings!

13. The Omen

{Speaker}: Asks the oracle if our offerings were accepted, and what the blessings of the kindred are

14. Calling for the Blessings

{Speaker}:

Brigid, we have made you welcome at our fire, we have honored you, and we have gifted you with offerings. We await your blessings.

15. Hallowing the Blessings

{Speaker}: Fills the horn then speaks.

By the might and wisdom of Brigid, hallowed are these waters.

Offerings we have given, and an offerings we have been given in return.

Behold the Waters of Life!

16. Workings

{Mary}: Blesses the wells

17. Thanking the Kindred

17.1. Thanking the DotO

{Speaker}:

Brigid, we thank you for joining us. May your light continue to guide us and the world towards its rebirth this spring.

17.2. Thanking the Ancestors

{Speaker}:

Sinsearach, both new and old, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may our actions in this world bring honor to you.

17.3. Thanking the Nature Spirits

{Speaker}:

Good People, spirits of nature, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may you look kindly on us in our future meetings.

17.4. Thanking the Shining Ones

{Speaker}:

Túath dé Dannan, Shining Ones, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may our relationship with you continue to deepen.

18. Closing the Gates

{Speaker}:

Manannán mac Lir, as our rite draws to a close, we again turn to you; assist us in closing the gates.

{Speaker}: Moves to the World Tree

Let this gate return to a tree.

{Speaker}: Moves to the Sacred Well

Let this gate return to a cauldron.

{Speaker}: Moves to the Sacred Fire

Let this gate return to just a flame. Let the gates be closed!

{All}:

Let the gates be closed!

19. Thanking the Earth Mother

{Speaker}:

We thank the Great Danu for all she has given and done for us. We now return all that we did not use back to the earth. May Danu continue to provide for all of us. We thank you.

20. Closing the Rite

{Speaker}:

Our time of communion with the Kindred draws to a close, and cares of mundane world began to assert themselves over us once again.

Let us take the blessings of the Kindred, back into the world, and remember our connection to the divine.

We have come together as we have done before and shall do again. Until next we meet, may peace and prosperity be upon you.

{Horn blower}: Blow horn 3 times