

## Making a Plaited St. Brigid's Cross

### Preparation:

Cut and prepare some fresh rushes. Sort out the thick ones from the thin ones and use rushes of roughly the same length and thickness. It is important to hold the rushes firmly but not tightly. If the rushes are held too loose the cross will fall apart.

*If you don't have access to rushes you can also use straw, plastic straws and pipe cleaners*

### Making the Cross:



- **Step 1**

Start by gathering your rushes that can be grouped into bundles of three. Depending on how large you want this cross, tie one side of the bundle and separate all the segments of three.



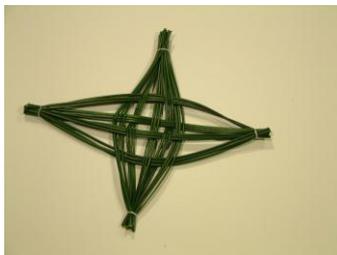
- **Step 2**

Gather another bundle of rushes into groups of three, tie at one end again. So now you have two pieces of tied rushes and both segregated into groups of three rushes.



- **Step 3**

Weave the first group of three rushes under and over the others. Then weave the next three groups of rushes under and over alternating the pattern differently from the first (i.e.) under over under.



- **Step 4**

Repeat this pattern until you have an alternated woven pattern in the centre of your cross. Bunch the untied rushes together and fasten at either end.

- **Step 5**

You are now ready to finish your cross. By this stage you should have the four ends tied.

Tease the rushes apart to accentuate the pattern. Now trim the edges of the cross so the arms are neat and of the same length. Make sure you don't cut too close to where it is tied.

Congratulations you have your own St. Brigid's Cross