

# St. Brigid's Day Cross Instruction Sheet

## Preparing your Heritage Straw

You will need to pre-soak your straw before you begin your cross. An old towel or cloth, as well as a good pair of scissors will also be needed to complete these projects. Soak the straws in warmwater in a sink, washing up bowl, bath or trough for at least an hour making sure that they are completely covered with water by placing a tea towel on top of them.

Below are written instructions on how to make your St Brigid's Cross but we recommend you watch Melanie Lorien's video with step-by-step instructions on <https://youtu.be/zaiGh6vfdeY>

## Making your Cross

- Make the core first by positioning two straws to make a plus sign, placing the horizontal straw on top.
- Pull the upper section of the vertical straw down on top of its other half. Turn the weave 90 degrees counter clockwise.
- Repeat to fold down the straw that is now vertical.
- Turn the straws 90 degrees counter clockwise again.
- Add the next straw by placing it to the right of the vertical folded straw and under the horizontal folded straw.
- Fold the added straw, turn the straws once again, and add the fourth and final straw of this round in the same fashion.
- Continue to add and fold straws.
- Avoid letting them bunch up or lie on top of those in a previous round. Instead build the weave outward, resting the straws side by side.

- At first, you may find it difficult to hold the arms together and at right angles, but as the weave gains substance, this will prove easier.
- Just remember to watch for gaps and fill them by repositioning and tightening the straws as necessary.
- When all the straws have been incorporated, tie each area off. Trim the ends of the straws and threads.

When you have completed your project feel free to take a photo of it hanging up and send it to us at [museum@tipperarycoco.ie](mailto:museum@tipperarycoco.ie) . We would love to see and share your work on our Facebook page.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council



An Roinn Cultúir,  
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Culture,  
Heritage and the Gaeltacht