Imbolc

Brigid's Cross

Also known as **Imbolg,** this celebration takes place between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox.

When is it? Around February 1st in the Northern Hemisphere and around August 1st in the Southern.

This time coincides with the Roman festival of purification "Februa", Candlemas, and Brigid's day, which celebrate the coming of Spring and encourage us to prepare for the busy season ahead.

Imbolc Ideas

The return of the light is typically symbolized by lighting candles or fire.

• Place candles on window sills. Make or bless this year's candles:

"I invoke the purifying Light that shines on Earth,
and plant the seeds for all my Magical workings to grow inside them.
I ask that they be charged and blessed by Bríg"

• Cleanse and purify the house, rearrange furniture, plant seeds.

• Holy wells were also visited at Imbolc or Brigid's Eve.

• Make a Brigid's Cross and set it over doorways and windows to protect the home. The cross is a solar symbol representing this Gaelic Fire festival.

St. Brigid shares many of the attributes of goddess Bríg (Brigit), and her feast day on February 1st (Imbolc) also marks the beginning of spring. It has been argued that the saint is a Christianization of the goddess.

Correspondences

Colors: Yellow, Orange, White.
Food & Drinks: Dairy products, Bread, Honey, Roasted root vegetables, Rowan berries, Rice pudding, Potato soup, Creamy soups, Spiced wine.
Crystals: White Quartz, Citrine, Yellow Tourmaline, Ruby, Garnet, Coral.
Herbs: Sage, Calendula, Lemon, Dandelion, Saffron seeds, Roses, Verbena, Violet, Myrrh, Cinnamon.