

Imbolc/Candlemas 2015 with Treibh na Tintean

MAKING BUTTER – Where we make use of Brigid's gifts.... We can make butter because spring is coming! It's a time of utter faith—we burn the greens because we believe that the growing season will come again.

CLEANSING – Come to Brigid's well...

MEDITATION – The Three Faces of Brigid

Jenna: For more than nine hundred years the flame of Brigit burned in her shrine at Kildare, tended first by the priestesses of the goddess, and then by the Catholic sisters of the saint. In the year 1220, the bishop ordered it extinguished. (*Sandy blows out candle.*)

Richard: Soon it was relit (*Denise lights it*).

Scott: It burned until the Reformation, during the reign of King Henry the Eighth, and was extinguished again, and the abbey destroyed (*Sandy blows out candle*).

Jenna: In 1996 the flame was lit again in Kildare (*Denise lights candle*). However, the darkness of ignorance and fear may well put it out again one day (*Sandy blows it out*).

Dave: But the true flame of Brigid was not in Ireland; the true flame is the Goddess, and Her fire is never lost. (*Denise lights it again!*)

Adapted from Amber K and Azrael Aryn K

CALLING THE DIRECTIONS

CASTING – (*Three Aspects of the Goddess in the center, surrounded by the elders, surrounded by the Treibh*). [*Sparky's chant: Brid is come. Brid is welcome. Counter chant by elders: Welcome Brid, oh, Brid is come.*](*Put besoms and staves around us in the outside circle.*)

COVENANT – As we gather here, in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit. So mote it be!

INVOCATION – [*All*] Bride of the earth, / sister of the faeries, / daughter of the Tuatha de Danaan, / keeper of the eternal flame... / in autumn, the nights began to lengthen / and the days grew shorter / as the earth went to sleep. / Now, Brigid stokes Her fire, / burning flames in the hearth, / bringing light back to us once more. / Winter is brief, but life is forever. / Brigid makes it so. *From Patti Wigington about.com*

BLESSING THE CANDLES – Where we extend our hands in blessing...

[*Jenna*] Bright blessed Lady, / source of the craftsman's fire, / shoot Your holy flame into these candles.

[*Dave*] Let it come from our hands, and from our hearts. / Bless them with Your light that comes from Your forge.

[*Sandy*] We want to dance and sing for You, / and so we pray to You. / May our candles shine like the fine metal you forge.

[*Denise*] May we bear the flame of opening hearts / into a world that needs healing, / a world whose light has been put out.

[*Scott*] Let us find Your flames of wisdom in ourselves. / Bright blessed Lady, let the good and gold in us rise up to the magic.

[Richard] Make our candles' flames taller and stronger. / Help us defend Your light from those who would put it out.

Adapted from Barbara Ardinger "Forging Finer Metal"

GIFTING STONES – Where we receive a stone from Brigid...

[Sandy] Here are stones created in the forge of Brigid's earth. They are topaz. They represent warming, awakening, inspiration. Gold topaz helps in manifesting personal intention. It aids in abundance. It's element is fire. It resonates with navel, solar plexus & crown chakras.

Come forward and get a topaz from the bowl. Pass it through the flame of Brigid's candle to imbue it with the spirit of Her creativity.

COMMUNION – Where we share in the abundance and joy of the coming spring!

THANKING THE DIRECTIONS

FINAL BLESSING – *[All]* Windy things, breathe free, / lazily a topaz hawk unfurls, / emeralds dry on a line where / bare faith billows / near bleached sheets.

A poem by Nancy Brady Cunningham 8/92