



## How to Make a Saint Bridget's Cross (Connacht style)

### Materials:

- Two lollipop sticks (you can also use twigs or wooden skewers)
- Craft glue
- Yarn of wool (one or more colours) – easier to use than straw or rushes
- Scissors



### Instructions:

1. Start with two lollipop sticks (or twigs or wooden skewers of roughly the same length)
2. Glue the lollipop sticks at the centre to form a cross (if using twigs/skewers bind them together using the wool)



3. Tie the yarn around the centre of the cross, hiding the knot behind the cross



4. Start by wrapping the yarn around the top arm of the cross by going over the front and around the back. Next, turn the cross clockwise. And repeat. Soon the pattern will begin to emerge. Watch the instructional video [HERE](#)

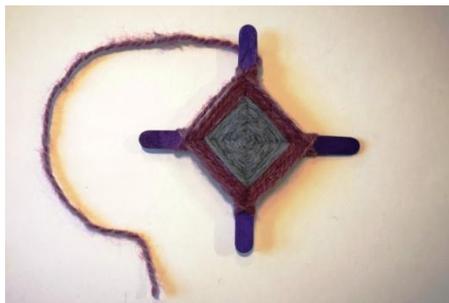
- The trick is to keep the yarn taut. The yarn should always lie neatly alongside the previous yarn, and not on top of it.



- If you want to change colours, cut the end of the first yarn and tie it to the new piece of yarn with a simple knot. Then continue weaving. Try to conceal the knot behind the cross.



- When you have done a few rounds of weaving and are beginning to run out of space, cut the yarn, leaving a tail. Wrap the tail around the last arm several times and finish off with a double knot. Add a loop to the remaining piece of yarn so that it can be hung up.



#### Further Reading:

- Kevin Danaher (1972) *The Year in Ireland: Irish Calendar Customs*
- E. Estyn Evans (1989) *Irish Folkways*
- Olive Sharkey (1987) *Old Days, Old Ways*

#### Primary School Curriculum Links:

##### Age

4th to 6th Classes

##### History

Strand (unit): Local studies (feasts and festivals in the past); Story (myths and legends); Life, society, work and culture in the past (life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century); Continuity and change over time (communications)

##### Visual Arts

Strand (unit): Creating in fabric and fibre (make small inventive pieces in fabric and fibre – weaving a wall-hanging)