

Hello  
children



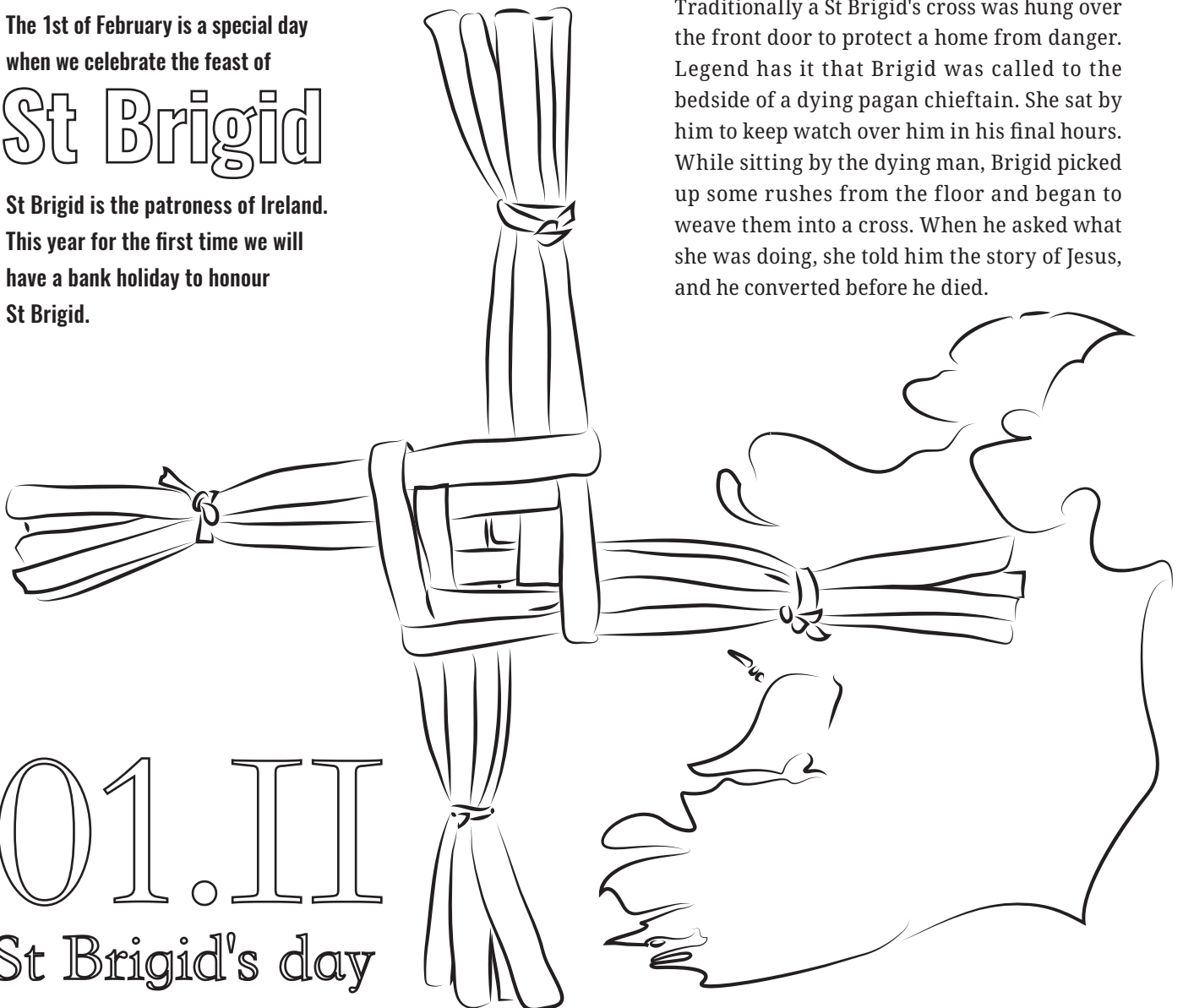
The 1st of February is a special day  
when we celebrate the feast of

# St Brigid

St Brigid is the patroness of Ireland.  
This year for the first time we will  
have a bank holiday to honour  
St Brigid.

St Brigid was born c. 453 in Dundalk, Co. Louth and died c. 524 in Kildare when she was 70 years old. She became an abbess and she set up one of the most successful monasteries in history, in Kildare and her convents were scattered all over Ireland. At one stage she was in charge of 13,000 nuns. Lots of churches, holy wells and parish halls are named after her. We have such names as Toberbride, Brides, Kilbride and Brideswell to mention just a few.

Some of you may make St Brigid's crosses at school. Making a Saint Brigid's day cross out of reeds is an ancient tradition in Ireland. Traditionally a St Brigid's cross was hung over the front door to protect a home from danger. Legend has it that Brigid was called to the bedside of a dying pagan chieftain. She sat by him to keep watch over him in his final hours. While sitting by the dying man, Brigid picked up some rushes from the floor and began to weave them into a cross. When he asked what she was doing, she told him the story of Jesus, and he converted before he died.



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St Brigid's day

You might also learn about the story of St Brigid and her cloak or you might learn the song about St Brigid bringing the Spring. She was a very important lady!

St Brigid is the patron saint of newborn babies, farm animals, nuns, brewers, midwives, poets and scholars.

I hope you enjoy celebrating this special day.

God bless,

Toby



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