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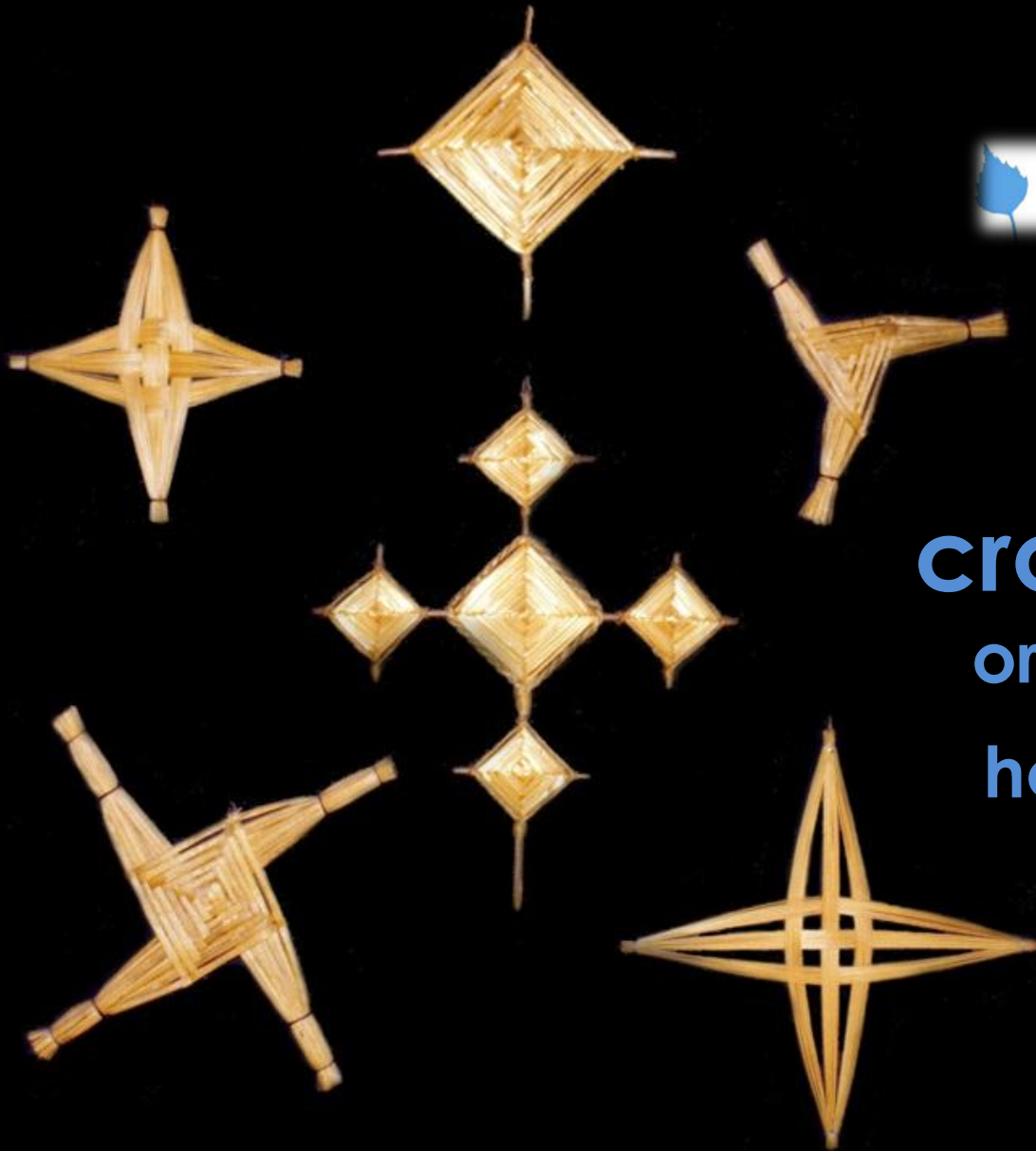
# ST BRIGID'S DAY


( picture above: 'Biddy Boys', Killarney, Co. Kerry)

ST BRIGID'S CROSSES



Different types of  
**crosses of rushes**  
or straw were made in  
honour of **St Brigid**.





‘When it begins to get dark the **rushes** are brought in and someone goes round the house on the outside **three times**.

Each time he stops at the door and says;

“Go on your **knees** and let in **Brigid**”

and the people in the house answer,

“**she is welcome**”

The **rushes** are then made into **crosses**’

(Tully Beg, Donegal [more](#))



## BIDDY BOYS

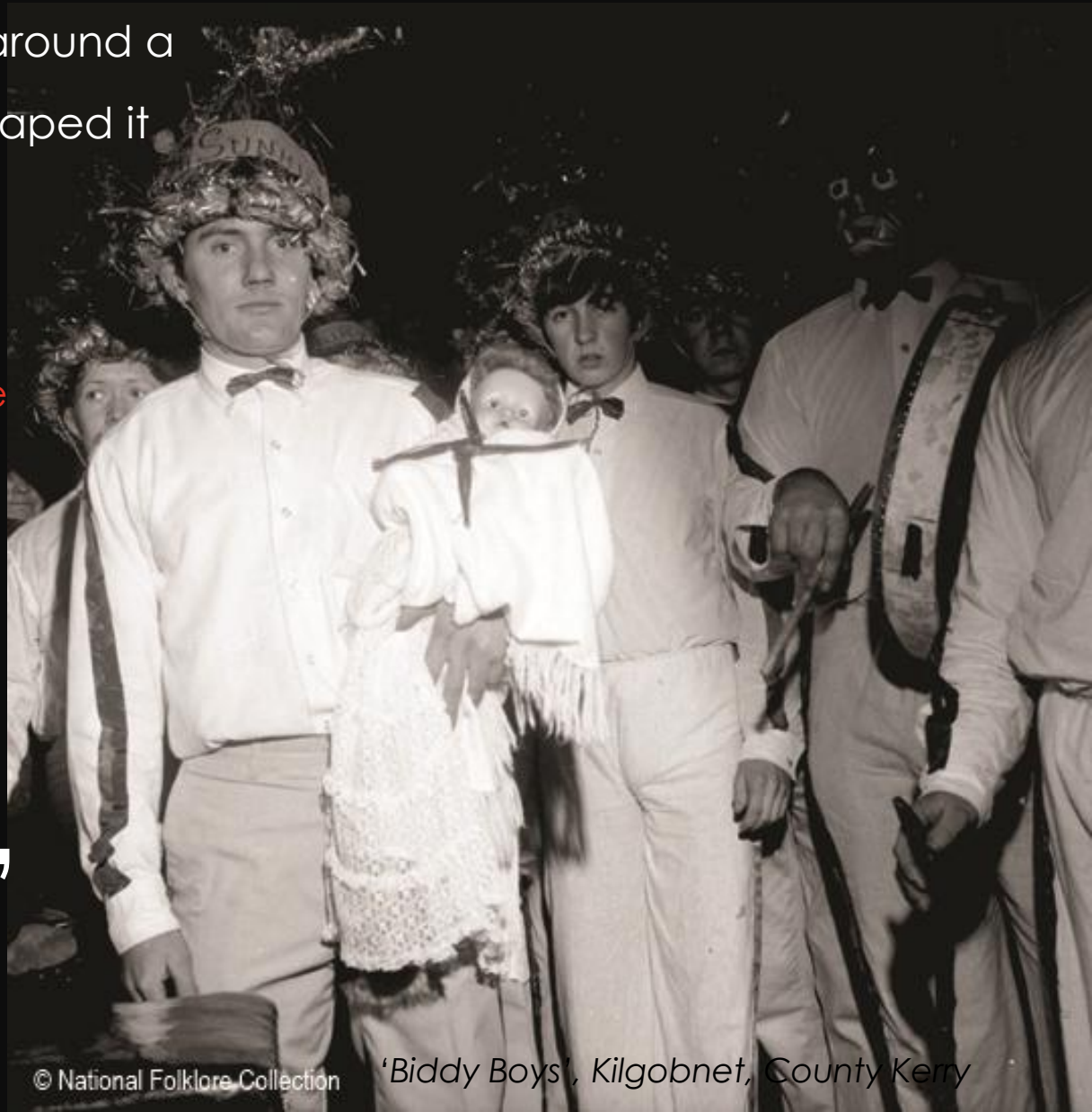
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They had a **white cloth** around a heather broom and shaped it into the form of a **doll**.

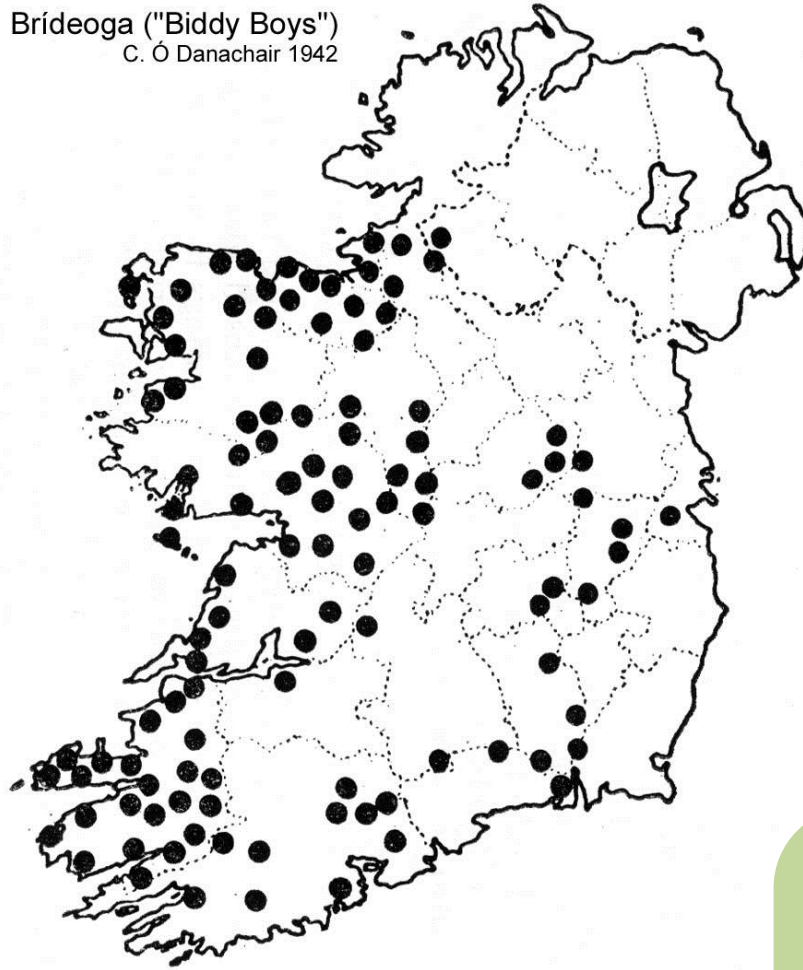
Then they went around from **house to house** with the doll in their arms saying the following **rhyme**.

“Here is **St Bridget** dressed in **white**,  
Give her a **penny** in  
honour of the **night**”

(Ballinderry, Galway [more](#))



Brídeoga ("Biddy Boys")  
C. Ó Danachair 1942



Distribution of the  
*Brídeoga* ('Biddy Boys')  
in the mid-twentieth  
century

## BRAT BRÍDE



‘**A** very common **custom** in this part of the country is the hanging out of a **ribbon** or **piece of cloth** on the **night before** St Brigid’s day.

It is said that **St Brigid** comes along and **blesses** it on that night. This ribbon or piece of cloth is supposed to be a **cure** for **headache** and **sore throat**’

(Ballyduff, Waterford [more](#))



# The 'Brat Bríde'

*(Brigid's Mantle)* was a piece of cloth left outside the dwelling-house on the eve of St Brigid's Day.



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It was believed that the cloth was a **CURE** for **various pains** and headaches and a **protection** against dangers such as **drowning**.

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