

**Issue 2 Imbolc 2011**

**Contents**

**Holy Days**

*Imbolc, Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood*

*Ostara, Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood*

**Goddess Work**

*Imbolc Invocation to Brigid, Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood*

**Hearth & Home**

*Imbolic, Sea Dragon*

**Ritual Work**

*Goddess Brigid Ritual for Creative Inspiration on Imbolc, Maeve Clíodhna MoonBird*

**Gardening with the Goddess**

*How Does Your Garden Grow?, BellaDonna Oya*

**It's In the Stars**

*The 13<sup>th</sup> Sign, Willow Moon*

**Sacred Sites**

*Kildare, Ajna DreamsAwake*

**OWM Awareness**

*OWM Happenings, Kerritwyn Ceannaire*

**The Bardic Soul: Poetry and Song**

**for the Spirit**

*Ewe's Milk, Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood*

*Planting Time, Literata*

*Persephone, Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood*

*Fire, Kerritwyn Ceannaire*

*Walking in Springtime, Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood*

### **Recipes Fit for a Goddess**

*Roasted Leg of Lamb, Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood*

*Purification Floor Wash, Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood*

## **Imbolc (February 2)**

Imbolc is also known as Brigid's Day, Bride's Day, Oimealg, and Candlemas. Imbolc is the festival of the Maiden. From Imbolc to Ostara (the Spring Equinox), the Maiden prepares the world for its period of growth and renewal. Snakes (one of Brigid's sacred animals) were observed coming out of their holes in the ground to test the weather, seeing whether or not it was warm enough for them to surface. This tradition of watching the snakes gave rise to the North American holiday of Groundhog Day, in which groundhogs are watched to predict the coming weather.

Imbolc is also a time when the Mother Goddess is recovering from giving birth at Yule, and the Sun God is gaining in strength. The main focus of the celebration, however, is on the power of the Maiden Goddess.

Deities: all virgin/maiden goddesses, such as Brigid, and Athena; all gods of love and fertility, such as Aengus Og, and Eros

Symbols: Brideo'gas (straw dollies), besom, white flowers, candle wheels, Brigid's

Crosses, priapic wands (acorn-tipped phallic wands)

Herbs/Flowers: angelica, bay, basil, blackberry, celandine, colt's foot, heather, iris, myrrh, pansy, violet, all white or yellow flowers

Foods: pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, potato dishes, poppy seed cakes, muffins, scones, bread, all dairy products, peppers, onions, garlic, raisins, spiced wines, cabbage, herbal teas

Incense: basil, bay, cinnamon, violet, vanilla, myrrh

Colors: white, pink, brown, red, yellow, light green

Crystals: amethyst, bloodstone, garnet, ruby, onyx, turquoise

Animals: lambs, ewes, cows, snakes, groundhogs

Activities:

Making Brideo'gas (straw dollies) to represent the Goddess. Brideo'gas are typically made from oat or wheat straw and placed in baskets of white flowers. In Druidic times, young girls would carry the dolls to each house in their village, with each household giving tiny gifts to the image of the Goddess. Most modern Wiccans will place the doll on their altar for the Sabbat rite.

Making Brigid's Crosses from wheat stalks. These crosses are then exchanged as symbols of protection and prosperity for the coming year.

Making or buying a new besom (ceremonial broom) and placing it by the front door. This symbolizes sweeping out the old, welcoming the new, and renewing the protection for the household.

Physical or spiritual spring-cleaning.

Bonfires or lighting candles and placing them in each room in the house, in celebration of the Sun God's growing strength.

Farm ploughs are decorated with flowers and ribbons. This is the first day of ploughing in many areas, preparing the fields for the planting season. Offerings of cheese and bread are left in the newly turned furrows to thank the Nature Spirits of the area for their assistance in the success of the harvests.

Family hikes, looking for signs of spring or gathering stones.

It should be noted that there is a generally accepted taboo against cutting or picking plants on this day. Any plants that are needed for this Sabbat should be cut or picked prior to February 2. This Sabbat is a celebration of growth and rebirth, so cutting a plant breaks its cycle of growth, and hence is seen as disrespectful to the Goddess.

## **Ostara (March 20)**

Ostara is also known as Eostre, or the Vernal Equinox. Ostara occurs on the Spring Equinox, varying from year to year, but usually occurring between March 20 and 23.

Ostara is a time of great fertility, new growth, and newborn animals. Its name is derived from Eostre, the Saxon lunar goddess of fertility, whose symbols include eggs and rabbits. The Christianized version of this holiday is Easter, and is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following the Spring Equinox, but it concentrates on death and rebirth, not fertility. The festivals honoring Venus and Aphrodite were also held at this time in the Roman and Greek cultures respectively.

Night and day stand in perfect balance on this day. Such days tend to increase the magickal energy of your surroundings. Nature Spirits and faery folk tend to be more active during these times. Divination activities are common during this Sabbat, ranging from tarot and oracle cards, to pendulums and scrying mirrors. It is also said that you can stand an egg on its end at the exact moment of the equinox, due to the fluctuations in the Earth's magnetic field.

Deities: Eostre, Venus, Aphrodite, Eros, all fertility gods and goddesses

Foods: leafy green vegetables, dairy products, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, pine nuts, all types of sprouts and edible flowers

Herbs/Flowers: daffodil, woodruff, violet, gorse, olive, peony, iris, all spring flowers

Animals: all newborn animals, chickens, rabbits

Incense: jasmine, rose, strawberry, all floral incenses

Crystal: jasper

Colors: light green, all pastel colors, gold, red, blue, purple

Activities:

Plant seeds, or bless them and plant them when the weather allows it.

Start a magickal herb garden in your kitchen.

Family hikes on nature trails, reflecting on the magick present in all of nature, the

Goddess and the bounty she shares with us.

Family/coven feasts.

Painting eggs.

Making chocolates.

© Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood

*[Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood](#) is a High Priestess, Ordained Minister and co-founder of the [Sisters Beneath the Whispering Willows school](#). She lives surrounded by the beauty of Central Ontario, Canada with her husband. She has a BA in Honors History. She is a Reiki Master, writer, and family historian. Originally initiated into Celtic Wicca, she now practices Eclectic Wicca, leaning strongly towards the Goddess in Her various aspects.*

## **Imbolc Invocation to Brigid**

*Brigid,*

*Oh exalted one,  
We tend your flame today.  
With your blessings  
May this spark spread  
Your light across the land  
Once more, heralding the  
Beginning of the end of winter.  
How we miss your warmth  
Beloved Lady!  
We beseech you,  
Oh fiery arrow,  
Come amongst us once again.  
Melt away the ice and snow,  
And let the buds burst forth  
To herald the presence  
Of the beloved Lady of the Celts!  
May your blessings be upon us  
And upon the land,  
On Imbolc and always!  
Blessed Be.*

© Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood, February 2 2008

**Imbolic**

So many Holidays are tied together at this time and yet it also feels like they have started drifting apart with the dates. I always think of Imbolic as the start of hope toward Valentine's Day and the renewal of energy and hope in so many ways. And then culminating in Purim, a Jewish holiday about the Book of Esther where Esther by her wit, wisdom, and boldness saves the Jewish people. This year though Purim isn't until March 20th, closer to the Spring Equinox, and this then Takes Passover into May. Usually Purim is around Imbolic and Passover is near the Equinox, since the Celebration of the Goddess of the Dawn Ostara is right around then too.

My point here though is no matter what the date on the calendar from year to year, CELEBRATE! Imbolic is not Groundhog's Day and full of fear of more winter, but rather the anticipation of Spring coming and the joys of light and sun. For me though, any opportunity to celebrate is a good one and I won't be missing out on Imbolic. I will light the candles and bake cookies in flower shapes. I will be starting my indoor seeds for my tomatoes and peppers as always on this day and dreaming of my outdoor garden to come. I invite you to celebrate with me as you see fit. Spring is coming!

© Sea Dragon

*Sea Dragon is an Adept with the [Sisters of the Rising Moon school](#). She holds PhD's in Metaphysics and Parapsychic Science, as well as being a licensed social worker, addiction counselor, and psychotherapist. She is a Reiki Master, and in her spare time enjoys learning about herbalism, aromatherapy, and spending time with her animals and family.*

**Goddess Brigid Ritual for Creative Inspiration on Imbolc**

Items needed:

1 White Candles

1 Red Candle

Incense-Lavender, Cinnamon, or Sage

Oil to anoint candle

Moonstone

Altar cloth-red or white

Small round bowl of water

Journal or piece of paper to write on and pen

You can also include symbols of Goddess Brighid such as the sun, sacred flame, Brighid's cross, three-leaf clover, water wells, your own creative work, and/or images of Brighid herself.

Any type of cheese, milk, oats, or corn as offerings to Brighid on your altar are appropriate too.

Set up altar. Place the white candle in the Center, the red candle in the South, the moonstone in the North, the incense in the East, and the bowl of water in the West.

These represent the five directions and elements. Place the journal and any other symbols, images, or food offerings as well on the altar.

You can take a purifying bath if you'd like before ritual and do a self-blessing.

Anoint candles with oil and light them. Light incense and purify space.

Cast the circle using the five directions and elements:

North Elements of Earth

East Element of Air

South Element of Fire

West Element of Water

Center Element of Spirit and the Goddess Brighid

Invocation:

*"Brighid, Goddess of Creative Inspiration.*

*Guide me to find creative inspiration*

*in my life now for my creative work"*

Meditate visualizing your throat chakra as a glowing blue light and the Goddess Brighid sending her bright sacred flame of light to you here. This is the chakra of creativity.

Visualize yourself doing something creative you enjoy, feeling the creative inspiration radiate through you.

Ask the Goddess Brighid:

*"Goddess Brighid, what ways can*

*I be inspired in my creativity now?"*

See what Brighid has to offer you or tell you.

After this is clear write down those specific inspirations to explore and creative projects you would like to create or continue now.

Say:

*"Brighid bless me with your bright creative inspiration.*

*May it burn in me like your sacred flame*

*as I create these projects and seek inspiration"*

The circle is open but unbroken.

Let the candles burn out and begin to work on your creative list and get inspired.

© Maeve Cliodhna MoonBird

*HP Maeve Cliodhna MoonBird is a High Priestess and Ordained Minister in the tradition of the [Order of the White Moon](#). She is also a certified Spiritual Counselor.*

## **How Does Your Garden Grow?**

There are many kinds of gardens and gardeners. Some people like nice, neat, clean rows of vegetables with nary a weed in sight. Other people have rows, but the weeds are allowed to run rampant between them. My garden is obviously domesticated, but a bit on the wild side, which is easier to do as I'm growing a "permanent" garden instead of annual food crops. I don't like it to look TOO cultivated, but although it's a bit messy there is definitely order. This is amusing to me, because when I first began, everything had to be just right, and I spent more time than I care to remember pulling up each individual blade of grass that poked its head above the ground! It tells me that I have changed, let go of the need for total control, and have learned to accept that some things just aren't perfect and never will be.

Our gardens are often reflections of our lives. Some people demand absolute control and order; they remind me of those spotless rows of vegetables that remind me of an army awaiting inspection; when they feel their lives are going out of control, they become even more rigid, going after those individual weeds just like I used to. Some people just like to kick back and let things grow where and when they will; their lives, like their gardens,

are a wilderness of beauty to them, but can appear messy and chaotic to others. And many of us are in between these, wanting order and security in our lives, but also being willing to let a few surprises pop up unexpectedly here and there, like the poppies and violets that have been coming back up in my plot every spring for years. (And just when did those bright red toadstools get here????)

So, how does YOUR garden grow?

*"Goddess, grant me the serenity to  
Accept those weeds I cannot change,  
Courage to pull the weeds I can,  
And wisdom to grow the difference."*

© BellaDonna Oya, January 19 2011

*BellaDonna Oya lives in Hayward, CA, where she runs a small eclectic coven. Her hobbies are gardening, belly dance, crocheting, Renaissance fairs, travel, and cats (she has eleven). She has a Master's Degree in Anthropology, and is fascinated by mummies and ancient Egypt. She has traveled to Ireland, Jamaica, Eleuthera, and Mexico, and hopes someday to visit Crete, Malta, Egypt and Delphi. She is a Level II Adept of [The Sacred Three Goddess School](#)*

## **The 13<sup>th</sup> Sign**

Quite the stir the "new" 13<sup>th</sup> sign of the new galactic zodiac Ophicuhus (pronounced off-ee-yoo-cuss) has caused over the past few weeks, from professional astrologers, dabblers, novice and yes, even scientists. As a professional astrologer who uses the sidereal system of astrological casting, I feel the most beneficial thing one can do is to

learn about the origin of Ophicuhus and to gain a bit of insight on the characteristics of the sign that has been neglected for so long in being recognized. Whether we choose as a culture, world or society to believe it, Ophicuhus does have benefits.

For some, a bit of Greek history may sound a bit daunting, but I promise I will make it as painless as possible. According to the history of the constellations the sign Ophicuhus is associated with healing, medicine, sexuality and wisdom. Unlike the other constellations Ophicuhus is named after a real person. Imhotep, an Egyptian medical scholar, around 27 BC, the time of the Greeks. According to [Brady's Book of Fixed Stars](#) by Bernadette Brady, "Ophiuchus was known to the Greeks as Serpentarius the Healer, who was also the God, Asclepius, son of Apollo." He learned the healing arts from Chiron; (which is also used in astrological readings) and is usually depicted as holding a staff on which a serpent is coiled. The symbol is now used as a popular symbol of western medicine, you are more than likely familiar with it, the **Caduceus**. Asclepius was the ship's surgeon on the Argo and became so skilled he was able to bring patients back from the dead, a practice quickly forbidden by the gods, who eventually smote him with a thunderbolt for fear that he would surpass them with his healing powers. Thus he was then placed in the heavens as the "serpent bearer: Ophicuhus.

Let's take a quick look at the symbolism of the serpent to gain a deeper understanding of Ophicuhus' energy. The serpent is a powerful symbol of the women's mysteries. It has always been the Goddesses healing companion and totem. It is seen as a healing agent because it representative of prudence, rejuvenation, wisdom, sexuality, transformation, feminine power and rebirth. What is fascinating about Ophicuhus is that he carries these very same characteristics. He holds the very power to create life, heal, transformation,

wisdom through rebirth and the expression of sexuality to propagate life. This is the key to the universe. The ancients have said that Asclepius has the blood of Medusa in his veins. The blood that flowed on Medusa's left side created fatal poison, while the blood that flowed on the right was beneficial to healing.

Thus Ophiuchus is connected with alchemy medicine is used to transform properties such as drugs ranging from the alcohols produced by Benedictine monks, to the knowledge of drugs and herbs used in western and eastern medicines. Lastly, it should be noted that Ophiuchus might be connected to what some know and understand to be "natural time", and the dropping of the 13<sup>th</sup> month so many eons ago. Melanie Reinhart points out in her lectures, its position as the thirteenth elliptical sign could well be the echo of the original thirteen **lunar** months clashing with the currently "established **solar** signs." Many ancient cultures tracked time by the movements of the moon, modern man has changed it by tracking our life cycles by the sun. Hence the maternal has been replaced by the paternal. Personally, as an astrologer who has a hand in many things spiritual and historical, I find our current calendar year to be quite non-efficient in its calculation of time. This holds true not only for our natural bodies but for the energy of Gaia as well. We are "off" by at least 2 weeks. Take a moment to think about it, the time changes are not in sync with the seasons, our bodies and we have one month that has 2 full moons when the others only have one. Ophiuchus may very well be the catalyst of major change, more than we yet have to even realize.

Whether you decide to make the "switch" to the new zodiac sign or stay with the old, it looks like Ophiuchus is here to stay. Words of wisdom from one sister to another, I encourage all of you to take that leap of faith and to give ol' Ophiuchus a try.

Unfortunately, due to Ophicuhus being re-added and relatively new to astrological analysis, there is very little information characteristics provided about this sign. However, I am confident that as time goes on, the solar characteristics for this sign will be intuited and shine through very powerfully. It has been, from my personal experience that these individuals bare **both** the qualities of Scorpio *and* Sagittarius, but that is another story.

For now if you or anyone you know are born between November 27<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup>, they are Ophicuhus and bear these traits: A seeker of wisdom and knowledge; tends to go for the more flamboyant in dress sense, favoring bright colors. Would make a great architect or builder. Number 12 is this person's lucky number. This person will have a big family but leave home at an early age.

© Willow Moon

*Willow Moon is a Level 1 student of the Sisters Beneath the Whispering Willows. She is a practicing spiritualist who has been on an intensive journey since 1999, as well as being a practicing spiritual astrologer, specializing in looking for soul growth in the various aspects of life. An ordained minister, she holds a B.A. in Spiritual Divinity and Spiritual Counsel.*

## **Kildare, Ireland**

*And every year we gather to welcome the light into our world; and to hope that more light will shine in the world; and that someday out of the darkness of war, hunger, greed,*

*poverty, will come the light of community, sharing, justice, music, dance, peace and love.* -Luka Bloom

Approximately 50 km west of Dublin lies the ancient town of Kildare (originally derived from Cell Dara in Old Irish, meaning Church of the Oak). In pre-Christian times, Kildare was the site of a shrine to the Celtic goddess Brigid. Following the introduction of Christianity in the 5th century, veneration shifted toward Saint Brigid, who founded two monasteries of monks and nuns on the site of the present cathedral. Saint Brigid built her church under the shade of an oak tree, the stump of which was still visible into the 10th century. The stump was revered as a place of miracles, and so no one was allowed to cut it, but people could break off pieces with their fingers to serve as a sacred relic.

Brigid's small oratory became a center of religion and learning, including a school of art, teaching metal work and illumination. As Abbess, she presided over all Irish monasteries. For centuries, Brigid's successors continued to rule over the male bishops until the mid-12th century, when the restructuring of the church occurred at the Synod of Kells.

The current cathedral was built by the Norman Bishop Ralph of Bristol in 1223. It was erected upon the site of the ancient pagan temple known as Brigid's Fire House, where the original sacred fire was tended. A sturdy building, it was built for defense as well as worship. The cathedral continued to serve the people until the Protestant Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when it gradually fell into disrepair. The church has since been restored and has become a sacred site for both Irish Catholics as well as pagans.

According to biographers, Saint Brigid's parents were a pagan chieftain (possibly Druid), and a slave who had been baptized by Saint Patrick. Brigid herself was said to have been baptized by the Irish Saint. It is possible that she may have been the last High Priestess of the Goddess Brighid, a convenient way to sway the people over to Christianity. Some of Saint Brigid's titles included the *Patroness of Ireland, Queen of the South* and *Mary of the Gael*.

There have been several miraculous tales associated with Brigid. One such story relates that, as a child, she had given all of the family's milk to the poor. Fearing her mother's wrath, Brigid prayed for a miracle, and behold, when her mother arrived at the dairy, it was overflowing with milk. Another legend relates that, while a young Brigid was left unattended at home, the neighbors noticed the house was on fire. Rushing to the scene, they discovered the house intact and Brigid unharmed. The most popular folk tale is that Saint Brigid was midwife to the Virgin Mary, and foster mother of Jesus. She was canonized by the Catholic Church, but, in the 1960's, there was found to be insufficient proof of Brigid's sanctity, and she was de-canonized by the Vatican.

Saint Brigid derived many of her aspects from Brighid, the Celtic Triple Goddess. Brighid is associated with fire, poetry and inspiration, metalwork and crafts. As a Goddess of herbalism, midwifery and healing, Brighid was in charge of water as well as fire. She guaranteed the fertility of the fields and animals as well as human and She protected all bodies of water. In the present day, one may still find clooties, petitions made of strips of cloth or rags, tied to the trees near ancient wells. However, Brighid's principal symbol was a perpetual fire, representing wisdom, poetry, healing, therapy, metallurgy, and the

hearth.

## **The Sacred Flame**

Both Goddess and Saint are associated with perpetual, sacred flames. This sacred fire was tended by nineteen virgin priestesses called Daughters of the Flame. Their tradition was that each day a different priestess was in charge of the sacred fire and on the 20th day of each cycle, the fire was miraculously tended by Brigid Herself. The tradition continued after Christianization with the nuns performing the fire tending duties begun by Her Priestesses.

The sacred flame at Kildare was said to have been surrounded by a hedge, which no man could cross. Men who attempted to cross the hedge were said to have been cursed to go insane, die, and/or to have had their penis wither. Food and other supplies were brought to the Priestesses by women of the nearby village.

The fire continued to be tended without interruption until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when the arch-bishop of Dublin ordered it to be extinguished as he considered the tending of the fire to be a pagan practice. The Fire was soon relit and remained so until the Protestant Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1993, Brigid's perpetual flame was finally re-kindled at Kildare by Mary Teresa Cullen, who, at that time, was the leader of the Brigidine Sisters. February 1, 2006, the flame was permanently housed in a large glass enclosed vessel in the Market Square. Today, visitors to the area are able to light a personal candle from the perpetual flame to

take Brigid's inspiration home with them.

## **The Sacred Wells**

There are two different wells at Kildare. The first, and the more prominent, is the Christian well honoring the Saint. This is the official well of Kildare, large, well maintained and elaborately decorated.

The Wayside Well is the older of the two, found within the Japanese Gardens off a parking lot. This well is much plainer and its spring feeds the larger well. A simple inscription reads "*St Brigid, Mary of the Gael, pray for us*". Visitors may gather water from this well to use in healing rituals. It is customary to leave an offering to the Spirits and Fey who dwell here.

Every February, Kildare hosts Féile Bríde, a week-long festival honoring Brigid. The festival also incorporates a Peace and Justice conference, workshops, and a candlelight ritual on Brigid's Eve at the Well. There is reflection, talk, music and dance. It is not a big trendy festival, but a gathering of people who want to celebrate the coming of spring, and who want to call Brigid's qualities into the world, to light a spark for change.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigid\\_of\\_Kildare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigid_of_Kildare)

<http://www.libraryireland.com/Wonders/St-Brigit-1.php/>

<http://www.afri.ie/>

<http://www.kildare.ie/local-history/kildare/saint-brigid.htm>

© Ajna DreamsAwake, January 22 2011

*Ajna DreamsAwake is an Adept of [The Sacred Three Goddess School](#). She is an eclectic Pagan, rediscovering Her Visionary Goddess Gifts.*

## **OWM Happenings**

The Order and all our sisters are particularly joyous when any of our students complete a Level of our teaching program. We are therefore delighted to announce that THREE of our beloved sisters have recently completed Level I, to become Initiates and Lifetime Members of the Order of the White Moon!!

The HPs of [Sisters of the Rising Moon](#) are delighted to announce this honor to Rosemary, a student in their school! Please share our joy in her ascension, and take a look at her wonderful Level I Final Project on Changing Woman:

<http://www.orderwhitemoon.org/goddess/ChangingWoman/ChangingWoman.html>

In addition, the head of [The Sacred Three Goddess School](#) is thrilled to announce that two of her beloved students have also completed Level I, and become Initiates and Lifetime Members of the Order!

First, we congratulate Aethyia; her incredible Level I Final Project on Athena appears here: <http://www.orderwhitemoon.org/goddess/Athena/athena.htm> .

Second, we congratulate Moonlit Birch; her lovely Level I Final Project on Brighid appears

here: <http://www.orderwhitemoon.org/goddess/Brighid4/Brighid4.htm> .

We were also delighted that fourteen OWM sisters participated in our Yule gift exchange, focusing on exchanging special ritual items and esoteric gear from our existing altar and ritual supplies and books. Those of us who took part were delighted with our lovely gifts, as well as with the opportunity to share gifts with our beloved sisters!

In addition, [Rising Moon](#), [Beneath Whispering Willows](#) and [Sacred Three](#) all welcomed new students to their teaching programs, this quarter!

Finally, plans have begun for our Order's Annual Gathering, to be scheduled in July of 2011.

© Kerritwyn Ceannaire

*HP Kerritwyn Ceannaire is the elected President of the Board, and the Head of the Order. She teaches White Moon lessons to women in [The Sacred Three Goddess School](#), and to mtf transgendered seekers in the [Rainbow Moon School](#).*

## **Planting Time**

*In the belly of the Mother, deep within the earth,  
seeds are being planted while the ewes give birth.*

*Drinking the new milk, suddenly I know  
the spark of an idea: the fire in the belly grows.*

© Literata

*Literata is a student of the Sisters of the Rising Moon who studies theology and enjoys developing poetry and rituals for devotion. She also keeps a blog at <http://worksofliterata.wordpress.com> .*

## **Ewe's Milk**

*Little lamb, oh little lamb  
New life so soft and white  
Would you share some milk  
With me on this night?*

*Young lass, oh young lass  
With skin as fresh as cream  
You appear to me as if  
From a far away dream.*

*You are far more than you  
Wish to appear, aren't you?  
Strange young lass, but yes I'll  
Share some milk from my ewe.*

*Little lamb, oh little lamb  
How bright you make me  
Smile; blessed you shall  
Be young one, you'll see!  
For Brigit's bright light  
Will forever shine on your  
Kind through the winter nights.*

© Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood, January 2 2011

## **Persephone**

*The snow and ice were melting,  
soon Winter would depart  
And with it the bitter chill she had come to love.  
She took her husbands' hands in hers  
Looking to the lands above.  
"My darling Hades,*

*My lover, my king,  
Our time together grows short  
For it is nearly Spring.  
Soon now I'll be leaving  
To go to my mother's side,  
But please know that always  
With you does my heart reside."*

*He smiled weakly  
And stroked her cheek,  
For he knew he had her  
For only one more week.  
"My dearest Persephone,  
Your light must shine above  
For the next six months  
Before you return to me, my love."  
To divide her time between those  
She loved had been Zeus' decree*

*So this is the fate  
Of poor Persephone;  
Half the year on Earth  
Is she to dwell,  
And half with Hades  
In what some call Hell.*

## **Walking in Springtime**

*Watch as the Goddess spreads her  
Colourful cloak across your path,  
For as she does the first flowers  
Will burst forth from waking soil.  
The fresh warm breezes you  
Feel brush past your cheeks  
Are her breath as she continues  
On her walk throughout her domain.  
The creatures of the forest and  
The meadow soon shake off their  
Winter slumber, coming out of  
Their homes to greet the Lady  
As she glides amongst them.  
With her magick cast, everything is  
Renewed and reborn, fresh and alive,  
And so the dance of life goes on.*

[Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood](#) is a High Priestess, Ordained Minister and co-founder of the [Sisters Beneath the Whispering Willows school](#). She lives surrounded by the beauty of Central Ontario, Canada with her husband. She has a BA in Honors History. She is a Reiki Master, writer, and family historian. Originally initiated into Celtic Wicca, she now practices Eclectic Wicca, leaning strongly towards the Goddess in Her various aspects.

## **Fire**

*Shining, gleaming, dancing,*

*Pulsing, burning, shining,*

*The Fire within pushes me,*

*Shines with me,*

*Dazzles me,*

*Emboldens me,*

*As I burn with Brigid's Flame.....!*

## **© Kerritwyn Ceannaire**

HP Kerritwyn Ceannaire is the elected President of the Board, and the Head of the Order. She teaches White Moon lessons to women in [The Sacred Three Goddess School](#), and to mtf transgendered seekers in the [Rainbow Moon School](#).

## **Roasted Leg of Lamb**

Ingredients:

Leg of lamb: 5 lb. (2 kg), tied up with string

6 sprigs of fresh Rosemary

1 onion, chopped

4 to 6 cloves of garlic, lightly crushed

3 to 4 tsp olive oil

Salt

Pepper

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Add chopped onion, garlic and 3 rosemary springs into a large oven pan. Drizzle some olive oil over them.

Season the meat generously with salt and pepper.

Transfer the lamb into the pan and place it over the onion, garlic and rosemary springs.

Using a knife, pierce the meat and insert rosemary into the cuts.

Drizzle the rest of the olive oil over the meat.

Cover it with aluminum foil and cook in the oven for 3-4 hours or until the internal temperature reaches about 160 F.

Remove from the oven and let it rest for 10-15 minutes before serving

Serve with roasted potatoes, your favourite winter veggies, and salad. Garnish lamb with mint jelly if you choose.

© Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood

## **Purification Floor Wash**

Ingredients:

6 drops sweet grass essential oil

2 drops cinnamon essential oil

2 drops clary sage essential oil

2 drops cedar essential oil

Mix oils together and add to 1 gallon hot water. Use to magickally cleanse your floors, cupboards, etc. and leave a refreshing scent.

© Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood, January 2011

*[Moonwater Chalcedony Ashwood](#) is a High Priestess, Ordained Minister and co-founder of the [Sisters Beneath the Whispering Willows school](#). She lives surrounded by the beauty of Central Ontario, Canada with her husband. She has a BA in Honors History. She is a Reiki Master, writer, and family historian. Originally initiated into Celtic Wicca, she now practices Eclectic Wicca, leaning strongly towards the Goddess in Her various aspects.*