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# Art and Mythology in the Imbolc Tradition



Imbolc is a \_\_\_\_\_ celebrated by the Celts, marking the beginning of spring. Traditionally held on February 1st, it symbolizes new life and \_\_\_\_\_. Imbolc is one of the four major \_\_\_\_\_ festivals, along with Beltane, Lughnasadh, and Samhain. It is associated with the goddess \_\_\_\_\_, who is thought to bring the spring after the long winter.

During Imbolc, people would light \_\_\_\_\_ to symbolize the return of warmth and the increasing power of the sun. These fires were also a tribute to Brigid, the goddess of \_\_\_\_\_, healing, and poetry. Homes were often adorned with \_\_\_\_\_ of greenery, and candles were lit to represent the sun's light and energy.

Imbolc also has a strong connection to \_\_\_\_\_, especially ewes, as this time marks the lambing season. The milk from these ewes was considered a symbol of nourishment and abundance, essential elements of the \_\_\_\_\_ season.

In terms of \_\_\_\_\_, Imbolc inspired various forms of Celtic art, often depicting Brigid or symbols associated with the festival. Common themes included spirals, representing the sun, and intricate knotwork, symbolizing the interconnectedness of all things.

The festival also played a significant role in Celtic \_\_\_\_\_. Stories told during Imbolc often featured Brigid and other deities associated with healing, fertility, and the dawn of new beginnings.

Imbolc celebrations today blend ancient \_\_\_\_\_ with modern practices. Many people still honor Brigid and celebrate the onset of spring with similar rituals, highlighting the festival's timeless \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

relevance Celtic fire fires mythology rebirth art Brigid sprigs  
festival traditions spring animals