

Celtic symbols

Celtic symbols and knots are one of the most recognised art forms in the Celtic tradition. They were originally used to carve stone, wood and metal. They decorated door lintels, windows, facades and many decorative objects with these magnificent forms. They were used in art, jewellery, tattoos, shields, swords, household utensils and amulets.

Some of them have a design in which there is neither a beginning nor an end, and are superimposed in a strict pattern from top to bottom, which gives them great symbolic significance. By concluding it in an interlacing pattern, the warriors reflected their beliefs, traditions and perception of the world around them.

They were used as symbols of protection and good luck, both for victory in battle and to protect their homes and families.

Each Celtic pattern has a special meaning. Each Celt chose a special pattern for his amulet, according to what he valued. It was believed that this was how they would choose their destiny.

If you believe in the Celts, the symbol you choose can change your destiny.



THE SIMPLE SPIRAL

Life

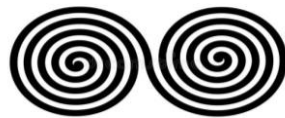
The spiral is one of the most universal and oldest symbols expressed by human beings. It has been found across all continents for thousands of years.

Spirals seem to be the natural way of expressing the infinite and the eternal.

In the case of the Celtic peoples, the spiral represented eternal life. For them this symbol had no beginning and no end, which meant that one cycle always began when another ended.

Its meaning is related to the sun. When it rotates counter-clockwise it represents the long summer sun, and when it rotates clockwise it represents the short winter sun. The sun signifies energy, growth and life.

The simple spiral has symbolised the concept of growth and strength. It represents the journey and change of life as it unfolds.



THE DOUBLE SPIRAL OR SISTREL

Eternity

These stone inscriptions engraved with spirals have been found on all five continents.

Their design consists of two continuous spirals: where the first spiral ends, the next one begins. This continuity symbolises the connection between opposites, representing the duality of things: like day and night, birth and death.

It is the symbol of balance and harmony between two rival forces. It captures the essence of life, the intertwined paths of destiny and the balance of the cosmos.



THE TRIPLE SPIRAL OR TRISQUEL

Learning and growth

It is also known as the spiral of life.

It is a curvilinear symbol consisting of three spiralling arms joined by a central point, resembling a helix. 3 was the sacred number of the Celts, as they believed that 'good things come in threes'.

This symbol is related to movement and change. It represents the perfection of being, i.e. the evolution of body, mind and soul. It is an amulet of continuous learning to live with full consciousness and wisdom. It represents learning to overcome adversity.



THE TRIQUETA

Unity

The triquet is a symbol consisting of three interconnected arches that create the knot of the trinity.

Its primary meaning is the unity of Earth, Water and Fire. It is also believed to represent the Celtic triple goddess: the maiden, the mother and the old sorceress. According to Celtic tradition and Druidism, the triqueta has healing and blessing powers, as well as fertility and life; it grants health and protection. It is believed to represent the three promises of a relationship: to love, honour and protect.



THE TREE OF LIFE OR CRANN BETHADH

Immortality

One of the most important and beautiful Celtic symbols is the Tree of Life featuring the mighty oak tree. The oak symbolises strength, nobility, longevity and endurance. It was seen as a symbol of immortality

The Celts were guided by nature and the connection between the earth and the afterlife. They believed that trees contained the spirits and essence of their ancestors. They saw the root system beneath the earth as a physical doorway into the world and beyond.

Whenever the Celts created a new settlement, they planted a tree in the centre as a symbol of life. In times of war the Celts believed that if they cut down the tree of their opposition they would immediately gain victory.

Celtic life was linked to the forest: it provided protection, shelter, firewood, animals to hunt and fruit to eat. Trees and nature were of great importance.

Balance and harmony are at the heart of Celtic culture and the Celts saw the Tree of Life as a representation of all stages from birth to death and reincarnation.



AWEN OR THE THREE RAYS

Inspiration

The word Awen has its roots in the Celtic language and means inspiration or essence.

This Celtic symbol is composed of three concentric circles within which three rays point to a summit where three round points meet.

It was widely used in Celtic culture to represent spiritual enlightenment. It signifies the transcendence of consciousness over the Ego. When inspiration comes, ecstasy is reached, time stands still, the idea of time and space is surpassed.



THE AILM

Inner strength and resilience

Ailm is a letter belonging to the Oghamic alphabet, and belongs to the 'A' sound. It is believed that each letter of this alphabet was based on a tree, and the Ailm is associated with the pine tree.

This symbol is represented by a cross within a circle, the two elements being independent of each other.

The Celts had a strong spiritual connection with trees. According to ancient Celtic legend, pine trees were associated with healing of the soul, endurance and, the resilience we need to endure hard times, as they are evergreen trees that survive despite adverse weather conditions.

Ailm has therefore come to be seen as a symbol of inner strength and resilience. It represents the power to survive and grow despite difficult situations.



THE WHEEL OF TARANIS

Balance

This symbol is represented as a wheel with six or eight spokes.

Within Celtic mythology, the god Taranis, known as ‘the thunderer’. He is associated with thunder and, more specifically, the noise and mighty destruction that accompanies great storms.

The Taranis wheel was used on art and coins, highlighting its importance in Celtic culture.

It represents the cosmos and its movement, the rhythm of nights and days. It reminds us that everything in life is a cycle that is in continuous movement and change. It was a symbol used in a similar way to an almanac and was used to determine the equinoxes and solstices.

This amulet of protection has been used for hundreds of years by ancient civilisations as a spiritual symbol and talisman of balance..



THE CELTIC KNOT OF DARA

Strength, power and endurance

The name Dara comes from the Gaelic word 'doire', meaning 'oak'.

The graphic representation of the knot refers to the root structure of the old oak, considered a sacred tree by the Celts. It is a strong, hardy tree that stands the test of time and is able to withstand the most severe storms. This symbol was invoked in the hardest of times, when it was necessary to be strong and resist a challenge by clinging to its roots.

It has been used throughout history as a symbol of strength, power and endurance.



SHIELD KNOT OR QUATERNARY KNOT

Protection

This symbol is composed of a circle with four quadrants with lines interconnecting the four corners. They are connected in an unbreakable bond.

It is an infinite and closed symbol, it has no beginning and no end. This simple but effective design symbolises strength and protection.

This symbol was used in battle to protect against enemies. It was also found outside houses, places of worship and near sick people to protect them



THE SERH BYTHOL

Eternal love

Serch Bythol means eternal love. This symbol is formed by two triquettes which, joined together, form a circle signifying eternity.

It represents the union of two souls. Each retains its individuality in terms of mind, body and spirit, but the circle created by the two knots symbolises the eternal union between the two souls intertwined in an indestructible union.

It is one of the most commonly used symbols to express eternal love, also used to represent strong family ties.



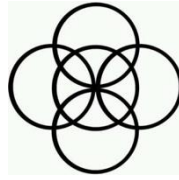
THE LABYRINTH

Inner Search

Twelve rings enclosing a winding path leading slowly to the centre, and these in turn into twelve levels, which are connected to each other.

The one who walks through the labyrinth has the privilege of receiving knowledge. It represents the inner search and personal growth.

It represents the metaphor of life, it reminds us that destiny is not our only goal. We have to lose ourselves in order to find ourselves.



THE FIVE FOLDS SYMBOL

The Wheel of Being

A symbol showing five interconnected circles.

It refers to the unity of the four main elements of the universe: earth, water, air and fire. The central circle represents the universe, in which the four elements converge to give rise to life.

It is a symbol that represents the integration of nature and the cosmos. It reminds us that everything is connected and in nature everything must work in sync, an important Celtic belief.



THE KNOT OF ETERNITY

Love

It is the knot that never unravels, the eternal union.

For the Celts, the everlasting knot protected the couple from all kinds of mishaps and from the wear and tear of love due to time. It is a symbol of complement, support and fusion of the couple. It represents the eternal union of lovers, which survives time and space. It reflects love and friendships that last.

It was customary in Celtic culture to inherit this symbol generation after generation so that the family lineage would be perpetuated.