



Feast of St. Patrick – 17 March 2024

THE STORY OF SAINT PATRICK



St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. But for all of his prevalence in culture—namely the holiday held on the day of his death that bears his name—his life remains somewhat of a mystery. Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling. St. Patrick was born in Great Britain—not Ireland—to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family. At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. (There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.) During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. (It is also believed that Patrick first began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity.) After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writing, a voice—which he believed to be God's—spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland. To do so, Patrick walked from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced a second revelation—an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than 15 years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission: to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. (Interestingly, this mission contradicts the widely held notion that Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland.) Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional rituals into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honouring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish. Although there were a small number of Christians on the island when Patrick arrived, most Irish practiced a nature-based pagan religion. The Irish culture centered around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth. When this is considered, it is no surprise that the story of Patrick's life became exaggerated over the centuries—spinning exciting tales to remember history has always been a part of the Irish way of life.

He may be known as the patron saint of Ireland, but Patrick was never actually canonized by the Catholic Church. This is simply due to the era he lived in. During the first millennium, there was no formal canonization process in the Catholic Church. After becoming a priest and helping to spread Christianity throughout Ireland, Patrick was likely proclaimed a saint by popular acclaim.

Reminder's

Copies of the times and places of Holy Week and Easter Services are available at the back of the church.



Knock Pilgrimage

The Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock takes place on Saturday 27 April 2024. For more info check out: knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie



Young Adult Camino

Young Adult trip to the Camino June 2024. Completing the last 110km of the Camino from Sarria to Santiago, this is a pilgrimage not to miss! Places are limited. If you wish to book, please fill out the form in the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/1GBviSd72R/>. All queries can be sent to natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie



Remembered this Weekend

Lillian McWilliams (3rd A)
John, Josephine, Mary & Joan Hannon
John & Elizabeth Wilson
Gean Nugent (1st A)



Playground at Vicar Street

Dublin City Council is proposing to refurbish the playground at Vicar Street/Swift's Alley in The Liberties to create a small parklet, retaining play equipment and adding trees, planting, new surfaces and seating. Email any comments to southcentral@dublincity.ie

FEAST OF ST. PATRICK

Penitential Rite

As we begin, rejoicing in the Lord who has overcome all evil, let us remember God's goodness.

You raise us to new life in your life. Lord have mercy

You are the source of our joy and hope.
Christ have mercy

You send us to be your witnesses in the world.
Lord have mercy

May our gracious God have mercy on us, forgive us our sin, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

Jeremiah 1 :4-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations'. I said, 'Ah, Lord God: look, I do not know how to speak: I am a child!' But The Lord replied, 'Do not say, "I am a child". Go now to those to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to protect you - it is the Lord who speaks!' Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me: 'There! I am putting my words into your mouth.'

Romans 10: 9-18

If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved, By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: 'those who believe in him will have no cause for shame', it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But they will not ask his help unless they believe in him, and they will not believe in him unless they have heard of him, and they will not hear of him unless they get a preacher, and they will never have a preacher unless one is sent, but is as scripture says: 'The footsteps of those who bring good news is a welcome sound. Not everyone, of course, listens to the Good News. As Isaiah says: 'Lord, how many believed what we proclaimed?' So faith comes from what is preached, and what is preached comes from the word of Christ. Let me put the question: is it possible that they did not hear? Indeed they did; in the words of the psalm, their voice has gone out through all the earth, and their message to the ends of the world.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain
Glory and praise to you, O Christ !

John 12:20-30

These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: "Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be

glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves their life loses it; anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a person serves me, they must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour them. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" A voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, "It was an angel speaking to him." Jesus answered, "It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself." By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, your love rescues us from all that keeps us from being truly human. We are grateful.
Lord hear us

Lord Jesus, you are the Word made flesh, freeing us to be compassionate as you are. We are grateful. Lord hear us

Holy Spirit, you are the spirit of healing, helping us to overcome our hurts and our burdens. We are grateful.
Lord hear us

Lord, may the violence and destruction which is being perpetrated in Gaza, Ukraine and many other places be brought to an end. Lord hear us

When Patrick wanted explain the love of God he chose the simple shamrock. Help us Lord to make your love a reality in our world. Lord hear us

We remember all who have died, especially those who have died through violence and war. May the new life in Christ, which they share, inspire us to be more faithful to the Word of God. Lord hear us

In quiet we call to mind all who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us

Reflection

God to enfold me,
God to surround me,
God in my speaking,
God in my thinking.

God in my sleeping,
God in my waking,
God in my watching,
God in my hoping.

God in my life,
God in my lips,
God in my soul,
God in my heart.

God in my sufficing, God in my slumber,
God in mine ever-living soul, God in mine eternity.

