

## ST PATRICKS DAY 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018



### St. Patrick, Apostle of our land.

Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by our seeing two solid qualities in him: He was humble and he was courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ. Details of his life are uncertain. Current research places his dates of birth and death a little later than earlier accounts. Patrick may have been born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Cumberland, England, or in northern Wales. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold. After six years, Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at

Lerins, off the French coast; he spent years at Auxerre, France, and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire was to proclaim the Good News to the Irish. In a dream vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north, where the faith had never been preached, obtained the protection of local kings and made numerous converts. Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick was emphatic in encouraging widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ. He suffered much opposition from pagan druids and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission. In a relatively short time, the island had experienced deeply the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe. Patrick was a man of action, with little inclination toward learning. He had a rocklike belief in his vocation, in the cause he had espoused. One of the few certainly authentic writings is his *Confessio*, above all an act of homage to God for having called Patrick, unworthy sinner, to the apostolate. "Christ shield me this day: Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ

above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every person who thinks of me, Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me" (from "The Breastplate of St. Patrick").

### Fingal for Life

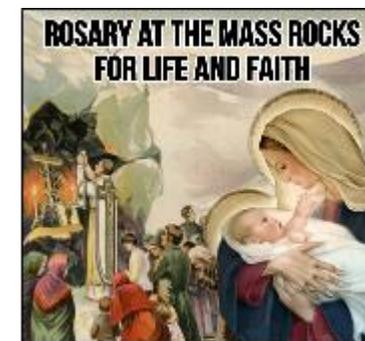
The second evening will be in the **Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, at 7.45pm, Tuesday 20th March.**

Speakers include David Quinn, Journalist and Director of Iona Institute and Niamh Ní Bhriain, Director of Life Institute.



**Pope Francis has chosen Dublin to host the 2018 World Meeting of Families. In getting ready, we are hosting parish conversations on what family means to us. We will also look at what Pope Francis says about the importance of family in the life of the church which he shared with us in Amoris Laetitia. The conversations will take place in each of the three parishes**  
**Conversation 2:**  
**Tuesday 20th March in St. Cronan's Pastoral Centre from 8pm - 9:30pm**  
**Wednesday 21st in St. Colmcille's Parochial House, Seatown Road from 2pm - 3:30pm**  
**Thursday 22nd in St. Finian's, River Valley from 10:30am - 12 noon**

**These conversations are for everybody to share their experience of family. Please come along and share your story - after all we as a parish, are a family of families!**



**Sunday March 18th at 2:30pm**  
Itinerary and Meeting Points  
(approximate times):

Meet at St. Finian's Church, River Valley, at 2.15pm.

Depart on foot at 2.30pm through the Valley.

Continue to Glasmore Abbey (The Nunnery) for 3.00pm.

Walk back to St. Cronan's Church for 3.20pm.

Walk to St. Colmcille's Well for 3.50pm.

Walk to St. Colmcille's Church for 4.15pm

