

ST PATRICKS DAY 17th March 2016



St. Patrick, Apostle of our land.

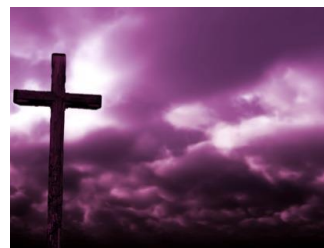
Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by our seeing two solid qualities in him: He was humble and he was courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ. Details of his life 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").

EASTER CEREMONIES

Details of all our Easter Ceremonies can be got from the parish Easter card and the porches in the church.



EASTER MASS BOUQUETS

Our Easter Mass bouquets are now available in the office and the sacristy. They make a lovely Easter gift as the Mass will be offered for the person you send it to.

Ministers of the Word and Eucharist

We would ask that all Ministers of the Word and Eucharist check the rosters for Holy Week which will be available next week.

Blessing of food

The blessing of food for the Polish Community will take place on Saturday 26th March after morning liturgy which takes place at 11am.

12th March/13th March

For the running of our parish

Envelope Collection: **€745**
Standing Orders: **€370**

The above are the ONLY collections that stay in the parish to support the running costs of our parish. Please consider contributing if you don't already do so. Please contact Stephanie in the parish office for details.

Collections for outside the parish

Common Fund: €590
(First collection)
Share €515
(Second Collection)

Swords Bridge club

A charity night in aid of the conference of St Vincent de Paul will be held on Wednesday evening 23rd of March at 7.30pm in the senior citizens centre Swords. All Welcome.



Father Des Doyle 844 7283
Father Eugen Rybansky 840 4162
Sister Josephine Keegan 840 5982

*St Finian's Church
and Our Lady Queen of Heaven*

PARISH OFFICE: Mon, Tues, Wed.
9.30am to 11.30am 01 840 9043
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