

Saint Patrick 17 March



About Saint Patrick (385 - 461)

Saint Patrick was born in Roman Britain around the end of the fourth century and he died in Ireland around the middle of the fifth century.

There are many legendary stories about Saint Patrick, including that he drove snakes out of Ireland and that he used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. However, his popularity goes beyond these legends to his missionary zeal and his great capability to inspire faith.

At a young age he was sold into slavery but he was eventually freed. As a result of his enslavement and subsequent release, he wanted people enslaved by doubt and scepticism to know that freedom can be found in Jesus Christ.

Although he had little formal education, he was appointed Bishop of Ireland. As a missionary bishop, he endured many hardships and even faced opposition from friends and fellow Christians. He worked very hard as a bishop and was always on fire for Christ. As the Bishop of Ireland his list of achievements include:

- the conversion of Ireland,
- ordination of clergy,
- consecration of virgins, and
- the organisation of missions to evangelise Europe.

What can we learn from Saint Patrick's life?

Saint Patrick is remembered for his simplicity and pastoral care, for his trust in God (especially in the face of adversity), and for his zealous proclamation of the Gospel including to those who had enslaved him in his youth.

Saint Patrick was on fire for the Lord and worked tirelessly to evangelise Ireland. Had Saint Patrick not come along, who knows what may have happened. The same is true of us. Each day is a gift from the Lord and is not to be wasted. We are members of families, we are in workplaces and we belong to various groups. These situations are places of evangelisation also. By our kind words and deeds and by the way we live our lives and do our work people should know that we belong to the Lord.

Saint Patrick

17 March



The prayer known as Saint Patrick's Breastplate is attributed to him and expresses the way that he experienced Christ's presence at all times. We should also try to develop the same sense of Christ's presence in our lives.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Collect

O God, who chose the Bishop Saint Patrick
to preach your glory to the peoples of Ireland,
grant, through his merits and intercession,
that those who glory in the name of Christian
may never cease to proclaim your wondrous deeds to all.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Luke 10:1-12,17-20

Your peace will rest on that man

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit.

He said to them,

'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few,

Saint Patrick

17 March



Start off now,
but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.
Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals.
Salute no one on the road.

**'Whatever house you go into, let your first words be,
"Peace to this house!"**

And if a man of peace lives there,
your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you.
Stay in the same house,
taking what food and drink they have to offer,
for the labourer deserves his wages;
do not move from house to house.

**'Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome,
eat what is set before you.**

Cure those in it who are sick, and say,

"The kingdom of God is very near to you."

But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome,
go out into its streets and say,

**"We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet,
and leave it with you.**

Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near."

I tell you, on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town.'

The seventy-two came back rejoicing.

'Lord,' they said 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name.'

He said to them,

'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions
and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you.

Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you;

rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.'

Saint Patrick
17 March



Antiphon

I confer a kingdom on you
just as my Father has conferred one on me,
that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, says the Lord.

Hymn for the Solemnity of Saint Patrick

Saint Patrick, into slavery
you were sold at early age.
From captivity you escaped –
your life starting a new page.
The Lord chose you to return to
proclaim Christ in Ireland,
as a missionary bishop
working the faith to expand.

Daily you sought to create peace,
bringing conflicts to an end.
You combined your prayer with good deeds,
on the Lord you did depend.
To those who had once enslaved you
you returned to speak and preach,
not in anger seeking vengeance
letting Christ's love their hearts reach.

May Saint Patrick be example
to us in our life each day,
like Him seeing Christ around us,
following him in his way.
To those who do not know the Lord
we'll proclaim the Gospel true,
announcing to them His good deeds
in ways that are old and new.

Text: 87.87D; Chris deSilva and
Alessio Loiacono
Suggested Tune: Misneach

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Jerusalem Bible Translation of Scripture used in Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III* (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). All rights reserved.

COLLECT and ANTIPHON: *Roman Missal 2010* © International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

REFERENCES: Sourcebook 2019: © Liturgy Training Publications 2019
Universalis App: 17 March 2021