



Profile of St Patrick

- Born a Christian
- Son of a deacon/local official
- Didn't pay much

attention to his religion when young

- Sixteen years old when kidnapped and taken to Ireland
- Sold to a slave-master called Milchu
- Six years forced labour tending animals on an Irish hillside
- Suffered cold, hunger and great loneliness. Began to become more aware of God and to pray. Sometimes prayed through the entire night and so grew in love and reverence for God.
- Had two dreams: first, telling him that he would soon go home to his own country; and second, telling him his ship was ready
- Believed these were signs from God and ran away from his master.
- Finally reunited with his relations in Britain.
- Years later, became a priest
- In a dream he heard the voice of young Irish people calling him back to walk among them once more.
- Made a bishop and sent to Ireland in 432 AD.
- Spent over 30 years as a missionary in Ireland
- Despite serious difficulties, he achieved much success.
- Christianity had arrived in Ireland before Patrick's return. However, Patrick did much to make Ireland a fully Christian island by the end of the fifth century

- Wrote his 'Confessio' and a letter to the soldier Coroticus
- Died c. 461 AD at Saul in County Down
- Buried somewhere in Downpatrick, possibly within the grounds of Downpatrick Cathedral
- Patrick's Feast Day: 17th March

Celtic Prayer:

May the eye of God watch over me.

May the footstep of Christ be before me.

May the Spirit of God be within me.



That with my own eye, I may notice who is my neighbour.

That with my own hand, I may help where help is needed.

That with my own ear, I may listen if someone needs to talk.

That with my own mouth I may give thanks to those who help me.

May the eye of God watch over me.

May the footstep of Christ be before me.

May the Spirit of God be within me.

That with my own eye, I may notice what beauty surrounds me.

That with my own hand, I may respect the nature about me.

That with my own ear, I may hear the sounds of creation.

That with my own mouth, I may speak for the world of which I am part.

I bow before the Father who made me,
I bow before the Son who saved me,
I bow before the Spirit who guides me,
In love and adoration. I praise the Blessed Trinity. Amen.