Resources for the Celebration of the Feast of St. Patrick Patron of Ireland

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Feast of Saint Patrick
Saint Patrick, bishop – Principal Patron of Ireland
17th March

Entrance Antiphon (Genesis 12:1-2)
Go from your country and you kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Collect
Lord, through the work of Saint Patrick in Ireland
we have come to acknowledge the mystery on the one true God
and give thanks for our salvation in Christ;
grant by his prayers
that we who celebrate this festival
my keep alive the fire of faith he kindled.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings: Year A & C

First Reading: Sirach 39:6-10
His memory will not disappear, and his name will live through all generations.
(Lectionary Vol II, p. 1504)

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 115:12-19. R/. v. 12

Response: How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?

1. How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name. R/.

2. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people.
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. R/.

3. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name. R/.

4. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. R/.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1-8
Convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.
(Lectionary Vol II, p. 572)

Gospel Acclamation: James 1:21
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-32

It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs.
Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off.

When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy

has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."'

He put another parable before them, 'the kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air can come and shelter in its branches.'

Year C *ad libitum*

First Reading: Amos 7:12-15
The Lord took me from following the flock.
(Lectionary Vol I, p. 774)

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 138:1-3, 7-10, 13-14. R/v. 9-10

Response: If I dwell at the sea's furthest end even there you watch over me.

1. O Lord, you search me and you know me,
you know my resting and my rising,
you discern my purpose from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down,
all my ways lie open to you. R/.

2. O where can I go from your spirit,
or where can I flee from your face?
If I climb the heavens, you are there.
If I lie in the grave, you are there. R/.

3. If I take the wings of the dawn
and dwell at the sea's furthest end,
even there your hand would lead me,

your right hand would hold me fast. R/.

4 For it was you who created my being,
knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you for the wonders of my being,
for the wonders of all your creation.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:2-8
We never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed.
(Lectionary Vol II, p. 1490)

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 4:18
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11
'Lord, I am a sinful man.' Jesus said 'Do not be afraid.'
(Lectionary Vol II, p. 977)

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Prayer over the Gifts
Lord, accept this pure sacrifice
which, through the labours of Saint Patrick,
your grateful people make
to the glory of your name.
Through Christ our Lord.

Preface
V/. The Lord be with you.
R/. And also with you.
V/. Lift up your hearts.
R/. We lift them up to the Lord.
V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

R/. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
and to offer you fitting praise
as we honour Saint Patrick.

For you drew him through daily prayer
in captivity and hardship
to know you as a loving father.

You chose him out of all the world
to return to the land of his captors,
that they might acknowledge Jesus Christ, their Redeemer.

In the power of you Spirit you directed his paths
to win the sons and daughters of the Irish
to the service of the Triune God.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

Holy, Holy, Holy…

Communion Antiphon (Cf Matthew 8:11)
Many will come from east and west
and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
at the feast in the kingdom of heaven, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion
Strengthen us, O Lord, by this sacrament
so that we may profess the faith taught by Saint Patrick
and to proclaim it in our way of living.
Through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing

May God the Father, who called us together
to celebrate this feast of Saint Patrick,
bless you , protect you, and keep you faithful.
R/. Amen.

May Christ the Lord, the High King of Heaven,
be near you at all times and shield you from evil.
R/. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, who is the source of all holiness,
make you rich in the love of God's people.
R/. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain for ever.
R/. Amen.

Source: The Roman Missal, Veritas, 2011
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17 Márta 2023 + Naomh Pádraig +Easpag, Príomhéarlamh na hÉireann, Sollúin

S: **In ainm an Athar agus an Mhic agus an Spioraid Naoimh.**

P: Amen.

S: **Grásta ár dTiarna Íosa Críost agus grá Dé agus cumann an Spioraid Naoimh libh go léir.**
Nó: **Siocháin libh**

P: Agus le do spiorad.

GNÍOMH AITHRÍ

S: **A phobal Dé, tugaimis ár bpeacaí chun cuimhne chun gurbh fhiú sinn na rúndiamhranaofa a cheiliúradh.**

Bíonn tost gairid.

Admhaím do Dhia uilechumhachtach,
agus daoibhse a bhráithre,gur
pheacaigh mé go trom,
le smaoineamh agus le briathar,le
gníomh agus le faillí,
trí mo choir féin, trí mo choir féin,trí mo
mhórchoir féin.
Ar an ábhar sin impím ar Naomh-Mhuire Síor-Ógh,ar na hAingil agus ar na Naoimh,
agus oraibhse, a bhráithre,
guí ar mo shon chun ár dTiarna Dia.

Go ndéana Dia uilechumhachtach trócaire orainn;go maithe sé ár bpeacaí dúinn, agus go dtreoraí séchun na beatha síoraí sinn. Amen.

A Thiarna déan trócaire

An Glóir

Glóir do Dhia sna harda,
agus ar talamh síocháin do lucht dea-thola.Molaimid thú;
móraimid thú; adhraimid thú;
tugaimid glóir duit;
gabhaimid buíochas leat as ucht do mhórghlóire;aThiarna Dia, a Rí na bhflaitheas;
a Dhia, a Athair uilechumhachtaigh.A Thiarna, a Aonmhic, a Íosa Críost.
A Thiarna Dia, a Uain Dé, Mac an Athar,tusa a thógann peacaí an domhain,
déan trócaire orainn;
tusa a thógann peacaí an domhain,glac lenár ngui.
Tusa atá i do shuí ar dheis an Athar,déan trócaire orainn.
Óir is tú amháin is Naofa;is tú amháin is Tiarna;
is tú amháin is Ró-Ard, a Íosa Críost,mar aon leis an Spiorad Naomh:
i nglóir Dé an tAthair.Amen.

AN CHOMHURNAÍ

Guímis.

A Thiarna,
de bharr shaothar Naomh Pádraig in Éirinn admhaímid rúndiamhair an aon Fhíor-Dhé agus gamhaimid buíochas as ár slánú i gCríost;de bharr a idirghuí
deonaigh dúinne a cheiliúrann an fhéile seo,tine an chreidimh, a d'adhain sé,
a choinneáil beo i gcónaí inár measc.

Trínár dTiarna Íosa Críost do Mhac,a mhaireann agus a rialaíonn leatsa,in aontacht an Spioraid Naoimh, ina Dhia, trí shaol na saol.

Amen.

LIOTÚIRGE AN BHRIATHAIR

AN CHÉAD LÉACHT

Sliocht as leabhar Sirach fáidh [39:6-10]

Briathar an Tiarna. Buíochas le Dia.

Salm Loinneogach [Salm 115(116):12-19]

AN DARA LÉACHT

Sliocht as an Dara litir ó Naomh Pól chuig Timothy [4:1-8]

Briathar an Tiarna. Buíochas le Dia.

Comhghair an tSoiscéil Cf. N. Lúcás 4:17

AN SOISCÉIL Maitiú [13:24-32]

Go raibh anTiarna libh.
Agus le do spiorad.

Sliocht as an Soiscéal naofa de réir Lúcás.
Glóir duit, aThiarna.

Soiscéal an Tiarna. Moladh duit, a Chríost.

An Searmóin

AN CRÉ:

An Sagart: Creidim i nDia,
Gach éinne: **an tAthair uilechumhachtach,Cruthaitheoir neimhe agus talún,**
agus in Íosa Críost, a Aon-Mhacsan,ár dTiarna,

Ag na focail a leanas, chomh fada le Muire Ógh, cromann gach duine.

a gabhadh ón Spiorad Naomh,a rugadh ó
Mhuire Ógh,
a d'fhulaing páis faoi Phointias Píoláit,a céasadh ar an gcros,
a fuair bás agus a adhlacadh,a chuaigh
síos go hifreann,
a d'éirigh an treas lá ó mhairbh,a chuaigh suas
ar neamh,
atá ina shuí ar dheis Dé
an tAthair uilechumhachtach;
as sin tiocfaidh sé chun breithiúnas a thabhairtar bheo agus ar mhairbh.

Creidim sa Spiorad Naomh,
sa Naomh-Eaglais Chaitliceach,i gcomaoin na naomh,
i maithiúnas na bpeacaí,in aiséirí na
colainne, agus sa bheatha shíoraí.
Amen.

Guí an Phobail

LIOTÚIRGE NA hEOCAIRISTE

Ina sheasamh dó ag an altóir, tógann an sagart an paiteana leis an abhlann, agus lenadhá lámh ardaíonn é beagán os cionn na haltóra, á rá i nguth íseal:

Is beannaithe thú, a Thiarna, a Dhia na cruinne,mar gur bhronn tú orainn as do lánmhaireacht an t-arán seo a ofrálaimid duit:
toradh na talún agus saothar lámha an duineagus déanfar de arán
na beatha dúinn.

Ansin leagann sé an paiteana leis an abhlann ar an gcorparáil. Mura mbíonn ceadaldon ofráil, ní miste don sagart na focail seo a rá os ard agus don phobal freagairt de chomhgháir:

Moladh go deo le Dia.

Cuireann an deochain nó an sagart fíon agus braoinín uisce sa chailís, á rá go rúnda:

Trí rúndiamhair an uisce agus an fhíona seo, go ndéantar páirteach sinn i ndiagacht an té sin
a dheonaigh a bheith páirteach inár ndaonnacht.

Ina dhiaidh sin, tógann an sagart an chailís agus ardaíonn í beagán os cionnna haltóra, á rá i nguth íseal:

Is beannaithe thú, a Thiarna, a Dhia na cruinne,mar gur bhronn tú orainn as do lánmhaireacht an fíon seo a ofrálaimid duit:
toradh na fíniúna agus saothar lámha an duine ,agus déanfar de deoch spioradálta dúinn.

Ansin leagann sé an chailís ar an gcorparáil. Mura mbíonn ceadal don ofráil,ní miste don sagart na focail seo a rá os ard agus don phobal freagairt de chomhgháir:

Moladh go deo le Dia.

Ansin cromann an sagart go híseal agus deir go rúnda:

I spiorad na humhlaíochta is le doilíos croígo nglactar linn, a Thiarna,
agus go raibh sásamh agat, dá bharr sin,
san íobairt a ofrálaimid duit inniu, a Thiarna Dia.

Túisíonn sé na hofrálacha, an chros agus an altóir. Ansin túisíonn mineastrálaí eile an sagart agus an pobal. Ansin níonn an sagart a lámhaagus é ina sheasamh le taobh na haltóra, á rá go rúnda:

Nigh mo chiontacht díom, a Thiarna,agus glan díom mo pheaca.

Ansin, agus é ina sheasamh ag lár na haltóra agus a aghaidh ar an bpobal,síneann sé a lámha uaidh amach agus tugann le chéile arís iad, á rá:

A phobal Dé, guígí go nglacfaidh Dia,an tAthair uilechumhachtach,
leis an íobairt seo uaimse agus uaibhse.

Seasann an pobal agus freagraíonn siad:

Go nglaca an Tiarna leis an íobairt seo ó do lámha,chun onóra agus glóire a ainm,
agus chun sochair dúinne agus dá Naomh-
Eaglais uile.

Os Cionn na nOfrálacha

A Thiarna,
glac leis an íobairt fhíorghlan seo
a ofrálann do phobal buíoch chun glóire d'ainmde bharr shaothar Naomh Pádraig.
Trí Chríost ár dTiarna. Amen.

An Phreafáid le Paidir Eocairisteach II

S **Go raibh an Tiarna libh.**

P Agus le do spiorad.

S **Tógaigí bhur gcroíthe in airde.**

P Tá sé tógtha in airde chun an Tiarna againn.

S **Gabhaimis buíochas lenár dTiarna Dia.**

P Is ceart agus is cóir sin.

S **Is ceart agus is cóir dúinn go deimhin,is cuí agus is tairbheach**
buíochas a ghabháil leat de shíor agus i ngach áit,
a Thiarna, a Athair naofa,
a Dhia uilechumhachtaigh shíoraí,agus do mhórgacht a fhógairt
leis an moladh is dual
agus sinn ag tabhairt ómóis do Naomh Pádraig.
Óir trína phaidreoireacht laethúille linn dó bheith i ngéibheann agus ag fulaingt cruatain

thug tú air thú a aithint mar Athair grámhar.
Thogh tú é as a raibh ar domham chun
filleadh ar thír na ndaoine
a rinne sclábhaí de i dtreo is go n-admhóidís Íosa Críost, a Slánaitheoir.
Trí chumhacht do Spioraid
threoraigh tú a bhealaí ionas gur éirigh leis clann mhac agus iníonacha na nGael a iompúchun seirbhís Dé Thrí-aonta.

Agus dá bhrí sin, mar aon leis na hAingil agus leis na hArdaingil agus le slua ollmhórna Naomh canaimid duan do mholta
agus sinn ag fógairt gan stad: Is naofa, naofa

PAIDIR EOCAIRISTEACH II

Síneann an sagart a lámha uaidh amach agus deir:

A Thiarna Dia,
is Naofa thú go fírinneach;
is tú tobar na naofachta go léir.

Cuireann sé a lámha le chéile agus leathann iados cionn na n-ofrálacha á rá:

Naomhaigh, mar sin, impímid ort,
na bronntanais seo le drúcht do Spioraid,

Cuireann a bhosa le chéile agus déanann fíor na croise aon uair amháin os cionn an aráin agus na cailíse á rá:

chun go ndéanfar díobh inár gcomhair Corp agus ✠ Fuil ár dTiarna, Íosa Críost.

Cuireann a bhosa le chéile. Sna foirmlí seo leanas deirtear focail ár dTiarna gosoiléir agus os ard faoi mar a éilíonn nádur na bhfocal féin.

Nuair a bhí sé á thabhairt suaschun na Páise
dá dheoin féin,

tógann sé an t-arán; coimeádann in airde beagán os cionnna haltóra é agus leanann air:

ghlac sé an t-arán,
agus ag gabháil buíochais leat,
bhris, agus thug dá dheisceabail é, á rá:

cromann beagán

GLACAIGÍ AGUS ITHIGÍ UILE AS SEO:ÓIR IS É SEO MO CHORP A THABHARFAR AR BHUR SON.

Taispeánann sén abhlann choisricthe don phobal, leagann ar an bpaiteana í,agus feacann a ghlúin á hadhradh. Ansin leanann air:

Ar an gcaoi chéanna, tar éis an tsuipéir,

Tógann an chailís; coimeádann in airde beagán os cionn na haltóra í agus deir:

ag glacadh na cailíse,
agus ag gabháil buíochais leat arís,thug sé dá dheisceabail í, á rá:

cromann beagán

GLACAIGÍ AGUS ÓLAIGÍ UILE AISTI SEO:ÓIR IS Í SEO CAILÍS MO CHUID FOLA, FUIL AN NUATHIOMNA SHÍORAÍ. DOIRTFEAR Í AR BHUR SON AGUS AR SON MÓRÁIN CHUN MAITHIÚNAS NA bPEACAÍ. DÉANAIGÍ É SEO I gCUIMHNE ORMSA.

Taispeánann sé an chailís don phobal; leagann ar an gcorporáil íagus feacann a ghlúin á hadhradh. Ansin deir sé

Rúndiamhair an chreidimh.

Freagraíonn an pobal de chomhgháir:

Mo Thiarna is mo Dhia

Ansin síneann an sagart a lámha uaidh amach agus deir:

Dá réir sin, a Thiarna Dia, ag cuimhneamh dúinn
ar bhás agus ar aiséirí Chríost,ofrálaimid duit
arán na beathaagus cailís an tslánaithe,
agus gabhaimid buíochas leattoisc gurbh fhiú leat sinn
a bheith i do láthair agus ag fónamh duit.

Iarraimid go humhal ortgo n-aontófar le chéile,
le cumhacht an Spioraid Naoimh,sinne atá páirteach

i gCorp agus i bhFuil Chríost.

1C **Tabhair chun cuimhne, a Thiarna,d'Eaglais ar fud an domhain mhóir**
chun go ndéanfá í a neartú sa charthanachti gcuideachta lenár bPápa Proinnsias,

agus lenár nEaspag Diarmuid,
a Easpaig Cúnta agus leis an gcléir uile.

2C **Cuimhnigh freisin ar ár muintir féina fuair bás agus iad**
ag súil le haiséirí agus orthu siúd uile atá imithe
ar shlí na fírinne faoi do ghnaoiagus fáiltigh rompu isteach
i solas do ghnúise.

Déan trócaire orainn uile, impímid ort,ionas gurbh fhiú sinn
a bheith páirteach sa bheatha shíoraíchun tú a mholadh agus a ghlóiriú

i gcuideachta na Maighdine Beannaithe Muire, Máthair Dé,
Iósaf Noafa, a Céile, na Naomhaspal, Naomh Pádraig, Naomh Lorcán Ó Tuathaillagus na Naomh uile a rinne do thoilse riamh anall trí do Mhac Íosa Críost.

Tógann sé an paiteana leis an abhlann, agus an chailís; ardaíonn iad araonagus deir:

Is tríd, agus leis, agus ann
a thugtar gach onóir agus glór duitse, a Dhia an tAthair uilechumhachtach, in aontacht an Spioraid Naoimh,

trí shaol na saol. Amen!

DEASGHNÁTHA NA COMAOINEACH

S: **Aitheanta an tslánaithe dár dtreorúagus briathar Dé dár dteagasc,**

tá sé de mhisneach againn a rá:

> **Ár nAthair atá ar neamh, go naofar d'ainm,go dtaga do ríocht,**
> **go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh,mar a dhéantar ar neamh.**
> **Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu,agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha,**
> **mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin, agus ná lig sinn i gcathú, ach saor sinn ó olc.**

Leanann an sagart féin air agus a lámha sínte uaidh amach aige:

S: **Saor sinn ó gach olc, impímid ort, a Thiarna.Tabhair dúinn go cineálta síocháin lenár linn, ionas go mbeimid, le cúnamh do thrócaire,**
saor ón bpeaca i gcónaí agus slán ón uile bhuairtagus sinn ag súil leis an dóchas naofa
agus le teacht ár Slánaitheora, Íosa Críost. P: Óir is leatsa an ríocht agus an chumhachtagus an ghlóir trí shaol na saol.

S: **A Thiarna Íosa Críost, a dúirt le d'Aspail:Fágaim síocháin agaibh,**

tugaim daoibh mo shíocháin:

ná féach ar ár bpeacaí-ne
ach ar chreideamh d'Eaglaise;
deonaigh síocháin a thabhairt di agus í a aontú,faoi mar is toil leat féin,
tusa a mhaireann agus a rialaíonn trí shaol na saol.P: Amen.

S: Síocháin an Tiarna libh i gconaí.P: Agus le do spiorad.

Ansin tógann sé an abhlann shárnaofa agus briseann os cionn an phaiteana í agus cuireann píosa di sa chailís, á rá go rúnda:

An cumasc seo de Chorp agus d'Fhuil ár dTiarna,Íosa Críost, go dtuga sé chun na beatha síoraí sinne a ghlacann é.

Idir an dá linn cantar:
A Uain Dé, a thógann peacaí an domhain,déan trócaire orainn.
A Uain Dé, a thógann peacaí an domhain,déan trócaire orainn.
A Uain Dé, a thógann peacaí an domhain,tabhair dúinn síocháin.

Ansin, agus a bhosa le chéile aige, deir an sagart go rúnda:

AThiarna Íosa Críost, Mac Dé bheo, thug do bhás beathadon domhan le toil an Athar agus le cabhair an Spioraid Naoimh: saor mé ó mo pheacaí uile, agus ó gach urchóidtrí do Chorp agus d'Fhuil rónaofa:
tabhair dom cloí i gcónaí le d'aitheanta agus ná lig dom scaradh leat choíche.

Feacann an sagart a ghlúin; tógann sé an abhlann shárnaofa ina lámh; coimeádannin airde í beagán os cionn an phaiteana nó na cailíse; deir sé os ard agus a aghaidh ar an bpobal:

S: Seo é Uan Dé,
seo é an té a thógann peacaí an domhain.Is méanar dóibh siúd a fuair cuireadh chun séire an Uain.

Ansin deir sé aon uair amháin i gcomhar leis an bpobal:

A Thiarna, ní fiú mé go dtiocfá faoi mo dhíon,ach abairse an focal agus leigheasfar m'anam.

Agus a aghaidh ar an altóir, deir an sagart go rúnda:

Go dtuga Corp Chríost slán chun na beatha síoraí mé.

Glacann sé Corp Chríost le hurraim.Ansin tógann sé an chailís ina lámhagus deir go rúnda:

Go dtuga Fuil Chríost slán chun na beatha síoraí mé.

AN IARCHOMAOINEACH

Guímis.

Neartaigh sinn tríd an tsacraimint seo, a Thiarna,i dtreo go ndéanfaimid an creideamh
a theagasc Naomh Pádraig a admháil agus a fhógairt trínár modh maireachtála.Trí Chríost ár dTiarna.

BEANNACHT SHOLLÚNTA

Leathann an sagart a lámha, agus a aghaidh i dtreo an phobail, agus deir:

S: **Go raibh an Tiarna libh.**

P: Agus le do spiorad.

Dia an tAthair, a thionól le chéile sinn le féile Naomh Pádraig a cheiliúradh, go mbeannaí sé sibh, go gcosnaí sé sibh agus go gcoinní sé dílis don chreideamh sibh.

P. Amen.

Go raibh Críost, an Tiarna,Ardrí na bhflaitheas,

i ngar daoibh i gcónaí

agus go gcumhdaí sé sibh ar an olc.

P. Amen.

Go ndeonaí an Spiorad Naomh,foinse na naofachta,

go mbeidh sibh lán de ghrá do phobal Dé.

P. Amen.

Agus beannacht Dé uilechumhachtaigh,Athair, Mac ✠ agus Spiorad Naomh, go tdaga sí anuas oraibh agus go bhfana libh de shíor.

P. Amen.

Imígí faoi shíochháin ag ghlóiriú an Tiarnale bhur mbeatha.

P. Buíochas le Dia.

Source:
An Leabhar Aifrinn Rómhánach, Veritas 2017
An Bíobla Naofa

BLESSING OF SHAMROCK

Heavenly Father,
We gather today to celebrate
the life and ministry of Patrick your servant.
We ask you to bless this shamrock,
our national symbol used by Patrick in his ministry to our ancestors.
You are truly one God and Three Persons,
a Trinity of love and compassion.
Through wearing this blessed shamrock,
may we be reminded that your Most Holy Trinity
watches over and blesses our daily lives.
We ask your blessing, ✠ in the name of the Father, creator of all,
in the name of the Son, your Word made flesh
and in the name of the Holy Spirit who consoles us
and reminds us of your love for us,
one God forever and ever.
Amen

Or

God of power and goodness,
source of all grace and crown of all the saints,through the intercession of Saint Patrick grant that as we wear this shamrock brought here for your ✠ blessing,
we may be eager to imitate him whose life we celebrate,
and that our reward in heaven
may be the company of Saint Patrick whose prayerful protection is our comfort on earth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST. PATRICK, APOSTLE TO THE IRISH

The man who would come to be known as Saint Patrick, apostle of Ireland, was born in Britain circa 386 A.D. His father, Calphurnius, was a deacon from a Roman family of high social standing. Patrick's mother, Conchessa, was a close relative of the great patron Saint Martin of Tours. Patrick's grandfather, Pontius, was also a member of the clergy.

Surprisingly, Patrick himself was not raised with a strong emphasis on religion. Education was not particularly stressed during his childhood either. Later in life, this would become a source of embarrassment, who would write in his *Confessio*, "I blush and fear exceedingly to reveal my lack of education."

Enslaved as a Teen

When Patrick was 16 years old, he was captured by Irish raiders. They brought him to Ireland where he was sold into slavery in Dalriada. There his job was to tend sheep. Patrick's master, Milchu, was a high priest of Druidism, a Pagan sect that held major religious influence over the country at the time.

Lonely and afraid, Patrick turned to his religion for solace and Patrick came to view his enslavement as God's test of his faith. During his six years of captivity, he became deeply devoted to Christianity through constant prayer. In a vision, he saw the children of pagan Ireland reaching out their hands to him and grew increasingly determined to convert the Irish to Christianity.

Freedom & Religious Calling

Around 408 A.D., the idea of escaping enslavement came to Patrick in a dream, in which a voice promised him he would find his way home to Britain.

A free man once again, Patrick went to Auxerre, France, where he studied and entered the priesthood under the guidance of the missionary Saint Germain. He was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of Auxerre around 418 A.D. As time passed, he never lost sight of his vision to convert Ireland to Christianity. In 432 A.D., he was ordained as a bishop and was soon sent by Pope Celestine I to Ireland to spread the gospel to non-believers while also providing support to the small community of Christians already living there.

Missionary Work

Recognizing the history of spiritual practices already in place, nature-oriented pagan rituals were also incorporated into church practices. Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual 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. Throughout his missionary work, Patrick supported church officials, created councils, founded monasteries and organized Ireland into dioceses.

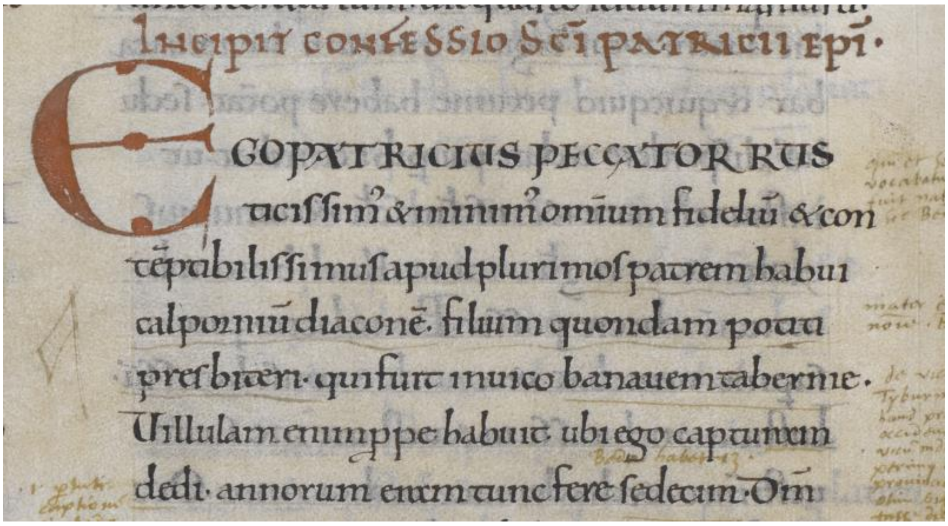
Death and Legacy: Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick died circa 461 A.D. in Saul, Ireland, and is said to have been buried in the nearby town of Downpatrick, County Down. Two writings survive: the Letter to Coroticus, a protest to the soldiers of a British prince who had killed some converts and sold others as slaves, and his Confession, written near the end of his life, showing him as one living by the faith he preached and allowing Christ to direct his whole life.

Sources: (Diocese of Limerick; www.history.com; www.biography.com)

CONFESSIO OF PATRICK

1. I am Patrick, a sinner, the most rustic and least of all the faithful, the most contemptible in the eyes of a great many people. My father was Calpornius, a deacon and the son of the presbyter Potitus. He came from the village of Bannaventaberniae where he had a country residence nearby. It was there that I was taken captive. I was almost sixteen at the time and I did not know the true God. I was taken into captivity to Ireland with many thousands of people. We deserved this fate because


Incipit confessio Sci patricii epi·
Ego patricius peccator rus
ticissimus & minimus omnium fidelium & con
temptabilissimus apud plurimos patrem habui
calpornium diaconē· filium quondam potiti
presbiteri· qui fuit in uico banauem taberniae·
Uillulam enim prope habuit ubi ego capturam
dedi· annorum eram tunc fere sedecim· Dm

My name is Patrick, I am a sinner': Opening lines of the Confessio, Cotton MS Nero E I/1, f.169v

Alison Ray, British Library Medieval Manuscripts

we had turned away from God; we neither kept his commandments nor obeyed our priests who used to warn us about our salvation. The Lord's fury bore down on us and he scattered us among many heathen peoples, even to the ends of the earth. This is where I now am, in all my insignificance, among strangers.

2. The Lord there made me aware of my unbelief that I might at last advert to my sins and turn whole-heartedly to the Lord my God. He showed concern for my weakness, and pity for my youth and ignorance; he watched over me before I got to know him and before I was wise or distinguished good from evil. In fact he protected me and comforted me as a father would his son.

3. I cannot be silent then, nor indeed should I, about the great benefits and grace that the Lord saw fit to confer on me in the land of my captivity.

This is the way we repay God for correcting us and taking notice of us; we honour and praise his wonders before every nation under heaven.

4. There is no other God, there never was and there never will be, than God the Father unbegotten and without beginning, from whom is all beginning, holding all things as we have learned; and his son Jesus Christ whom we declare to have been always with the Father and to have been begotten spiritually by the Father in a way that baffles description, before the beginning of the world, before all beginning; and through him are made all things, visible and invisible. He was made man, defeated death and was received into heaven by the Father, who has given him all power over all names in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and every tongue should acknowledge to him that Jesus Christ is the Lord God. We believe in him and we look for his coming soon as judge of the living and of the dead, who will treat every man according to his deeds. He has poured out the Holy Spirit on us in abundance, the gift and guarantee of eternal life, who makes those who believe and obey sons of God and joint heirs with Christ. We acknowledge and adore him as one God in the Trinity of the holy name.

5. He himself has said through the prophet: *Call upon me in the day of your trouble; and I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me. He also says: it is honourable to reveal and confess the works of God.*

6. Although I am imperfect in many ways I want my brothers and relatives to know what Kind of man I am, so that they may perceive the aspiration of my life.

7. I know well the statement of the Lord which he makes in the psalm: *You will destroy those who speak falsely.* He says again*: A lying mouth destroys the soul.* The same Lord says in the Gospel: *On the day of judgement men will render account for every careless word they utter.*

8. I ought therefore to dread with fear and trembling the sentence of that day when no one will be able to escape or hide, but when all of us will have to give an account of even our smallest sins before the court of the Lord Christ.

(Taken from *Patrick in his Own Words*, Bishop Joseph Duffy, Veritas Publications, 2019)

ST PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

The popular prayer *Saint Patrick's Breastplate* is contained in the ancient Book of Armagh, from the early ninth century, along with Patrick's authentic "Confession." Saint Patrick is said to have written this prayer to strengthen himself with God's protection as he prepared to confront and convert Lóegaire, High King of Ireland.

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through the belief in the threeness,
Through confession of the oneness
Of the Creator of Creation.
I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's birth with his baptism,
Through the strength of his crucifixion with his burial,
Through the strength of his resurrection with his ascension,
Through the strength of his descent for the judgment of Doom.
I arise today
Through the strength of the love of Cherubim,
In obedience of angels,
In the service of archangels,
In hope of resurrection to meet with reward,
In prayers of patriarchs,
In predictions of prophets,
In preaching of apostles,
In faith of confessors,
In innocence of holy virgins,
In deeds of righteous men.
I arise today
Through the strength of heaven:
Light of sun,
Radiance of moon,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of wind,
Depth of sea,
Stability of earth,

Firmness of rock.
I arise today
Through God’s strength to pilot me:
God’s might to uphold me,
God’s wisdom to guide me,
God’s eye to look before me,
God’s ear to hear me,
God’s word to speak for me,
God’s hand to guard me,
God’s way to lie before me,
God’s shield to protect me,
God’s host to save me
From snares of devils,
From temptations of vices,
From everyone who shall wish me ill,
Afar and anear,
Alone and in multitude.
I summon today all these powers between me and those evils,
Against every cruel merciless power that may oppose my body and soul,
Against incantations of false prophets,
Against black laws of pagandom
Against false laws of heretics,
Against craft of idolatry,
Against spells of witches and smiths and wizards,
Against every knowledge that corrupts man’s body and soul.
Christ to shield me today
Against poison, against burning,
Against drowning, against wounding,
So that there may come to me abundance of reward.
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 sit down, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the threeness,
Through confession of the oneness,
Of the Creator of Creation.

St. Patrick's Day (A)
Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant:
With God's wisdom to guide us and His strength to uphold us, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

1. We pray for the Church in Ireland: may God give its leaders courage and compassion in preaching and teaching the Good News. **Lord, hear us.**

2. St. Patrick prayed, *'May the wisdom of God instruct us'*. We pray for all currently working for an end to the conflict in Ukraine. May your wisdom inspire them, your shield protect them, and your generosity provide for their needs. **Lord, hear us.**

3. For all who, like Patrick, are forced into exile across the world: help them overcome the obstacles and challenges they face on a daily basis, and may they be treated with respect, hospitality, and welcome wherever they seek refuge and asylum. **Lord, hear us.**

4. Go mbeidh trócaire Dé soiléir inár saol laethúil sa chuí a shínimid amach chucu sin a bhfuil riachtanais acu tríd easpa dídine, ocras agus géarleanúna. **A Thiarna, eist linn.**

   May we witness to God's mercy in our daily lives as we reach out to those who are homeless, hungry and persecuted. **Lord, hear us.**

5. For those overwhelmed by loneliness, poverty and despair, that they may be comforted through our help and kindness. **Lord, hear us.**

6. For our undocumented in the United States, Australia and throughout the world: may solutions be found to integrate them freely and legitimately into society. **Lord, hear us.**

7. We pray for those who leave our shores in search of new beginnings and for those who have come to our country to make their home. May they experience an abundance of blessings in the care and support of their new communities. **Lord, hear us.**

8. Guímis ar son na ndaoine a fuar bás sa pharóiste seo le déanaí sa mbaile agus i gcéin, go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a n-anamacha dílis. **A Thiarna, eist linn.**

   We pray for those have died recently from this parish at home and abroad, may God have mercy on their faithful souls. **Lord, hear us.**

Celebrant:
Heavenly Father, keep us faithful in following the Gospel proclaimed by St. Patrick. Help us to be living witnesses to the goodness you reveal in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**