

Parish Confirmation Preparation

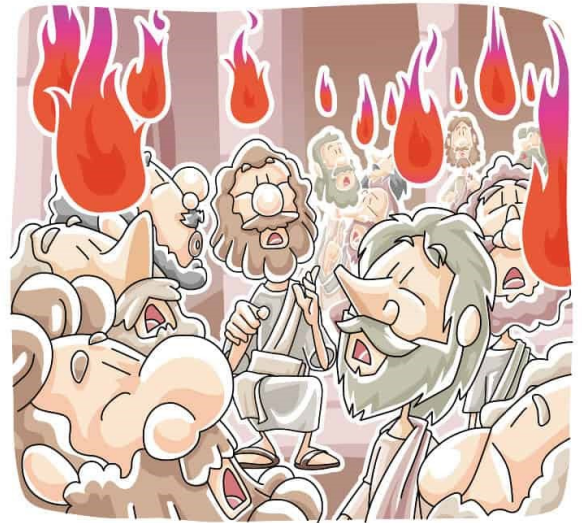
March 2024

THE STORY OF PENTECOST

The Church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost fifty days after Easter Sunday. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter.

When the day of Pentecost came, Mary and the disciples were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

The Holy Spirit filled the disciples with courage and faith, empowering them to share the Good News with others. They began to tell others about Jesus, and that he died for us and rose to new life. On this day, the gift of the Spirit allowed the disciples to communicate even with those who spoke different languages.



Gifts of the Holy Spirit

(Insert the words below to complete this explanation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.)

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are _____ gifts that are bestowed upon Catholics during the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. These gifts are _____ understanding, right judgement, courage, _____, reverence and wonder and awe in God's presence. These _____ are given to help a person live a Christian life and to be a witness to their faith.

Wisdom helps the person to see things from God's perspective. _____ helps the person to understand the teachings of the Catholic Church. Right Judgement helps the person to make good _____. Courage helps the person to be strong in their faith. Knowledge helps the person to know God and His ways, Reverence helps the person to be reverent and _____ to God. Wonder and Awe in God's Presence helps the person to have a healthy _____ for God and His laws.

gifts	wisdom	understanding	faithful
knowledge	seven	respect	decisions

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The term "fruits of the Spirit" is found in St. Paul's letter to the Galatians 5:22-23, where Paul speaks about how different life is and how better life could be when lived following the Holy Spirit. A life filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit bears multiple fruit in the lives of those who which to imitate and follow the attributes of Christ's character



love,
joy,
peace,
patience,
kindness,
goodness,
faithfulness,
gentleness,
and self-control

Galatians 5:22-23

Feast of St. Patrick

Patron of Ireland

17th March

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ST. PATRICK



St. Patrick wasn't actually Irish

It may seem difficult to believe that the patron saint of Ireland was not Irish, but it's true! St. Patrick was actually born in Britain.

Patrick's Parents' Names

His father, Calpurnius was a Roman-British army officer and a deacon and his mother was Conchessa.

Patrick was not his original name

Patrick is the name he took when he was ordained and began his religious work. The meaning of the name 'Patricus' in Latin is 'nobleman' or 'father figure', which is how he was viewed for his ministry in Ireland. His birth name was in fact Maewyn Succat.

Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave

When he was 16, Patrick was captured by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. He spent six years and worked as a herdsman tending sheep and pigs on Mount Slemish, in County Antrim.

Patrick claimed to have seen visions and heard voices

Patrick spent a great deal of time in prayer. Eventually, he had a vision that saw him as a stowaway on a boat back to Britain. He soon escaped and was reunited with his family. Back in Britain and safe from his captors, he had a vision that the people of Ireland were calling him back to minister to them about God. Before returning, he travelled to France where he trained in a monastery, possibly under Saint Germain, the Bishop of Auxerre. Twelve years later, he returned to Irish shores as a Bishop, sent with the Pope's blessing.

Patrick wrote two short works

St. Patrick wrote two letters in Latin. The first is called 'Confessio' or 'The Declaration' in English. This piece was an autobiographical work about his life and his missionary work. This is where we get most of our information about St. Patrick from today. The second piece is called 'Epistola' or 'Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus', which also includes some facts about his life.

Where was St. Patrick laid to rest?

St. Patrick is believed to have died on March 17, 461 and is buried in Downpatrick, Co. Down.

PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH ST. PATRICK

1. Croagh Patrick, Co. Mayo.

St. Patrick is said to have fasted on this mountain for 40 days and 40 nights.

2. St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

The cathedral is built upon a stone church built by St. Patrick in 445AD

3. **Hill of Slane**—Patrick lit the Paschal fire on the Hill of Slane. It was here he converted the High King of Ireland, Lóegaire.

4. Slemish, Co. Antrim.

During his here for six years, Patrick's faith in God began to flourish.

5. Lough Derg, Co. Donegal.

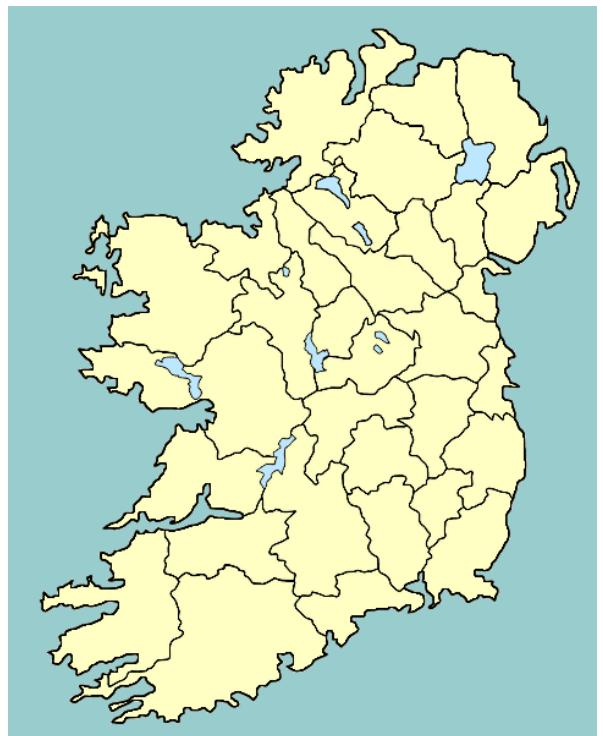
Patrick visits Station Island on Lough Derg (Red Lake) and is shown a vision of purgatory.

6. **Downpatrick Cathedral**, It is here St. Patrick was buried after his death in 461.

7. Rock of Cashel, Tipperary.

Here he converted and baptised King Aengus, chief, the King of Munster in the fifth century

Using the map below, can you locate all of the above place associated with St . Patrick and mark them on the map of Ireland.



Saint Patrick's Breastplate

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ within me,
Christ below me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my waking,
Christ in the heart of all who think of me,
Christ in the mouth of all who speak of me,
Christ in every eye that looks at me,
Christ in every ear that listens to me. **Amen.**