

St Patrick, Bishop Principal Patron of Ireland

Naomh Pádraig, easpag Príomhéarlaimh na hÉireann

Patrick was born very probably in the early years of the fifth century in Britain . He was taken captive at the age of 16 and brought to Ireland , where he worked as a slave. His captivity had a very positive effect on his spiritual life. He escaped back home at the age of 22. It was obvious to him that God was calling him to return to convert the Irish. After studies in Europe he returned to Ireland and made a very large number of converts. His spiritual journey is recounted in his *Confessio*.

The texts for the solemnity of Saint Patrick are inspired by the well-known facts of his life and by some important themes from his *Confessio* (notably the true faith, the mystery of the Triune God, confession of praise and thanksgiving). Line 6 of the Collect evokes discreetly the legend of his lighting the paschal fire on the Hill of Slane. The scripture text adapted as Communion Antiphon (Mt 8:11) is quoted both in the *Confessio* and in the *Letter to Coroticus*. In addition, these writings quote from or refer to the following texts used in the Liturgy of the Word: Ps 115 (116):12; Mk 16:15-20; 1Thess 2:2-8; Lk 5:1-11.

Entrance Antiphon

Gen 12:1-2

Go from your country and your 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 of the one true God
and give thanks for our salvation in Christ;
grant by his prayers
that we who celebrate this festival
may keep alive the fire of faith he kindled.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings : Year ABC

First Reading

Eccles (Sir) 39:6-10

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus
His memory will not disappear, generation after generation his name will live.

If it is the will of the great Lord,
the scholar will be filled with the spirit of understanding,
he will shower forth words of wisdom,
and in prayer give thanks to the Lord.

He will grow upright in purpose and learning,
he will ponder the Lord's hidden mysteries.
He will display the instruction he has received,
taking his pride in the Law of the Lord's covenant.
Many will praise his understanding,
and it will never be forgotten.
His memory will not disappear,
generation after generation his name will live.
Nations will proclaim his wisdom,
the assembly will celebrate his praises.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 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 Tim 4:1-8

A reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to Timothy

Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching. The time is sure to come when, far from being content with sound teaching, people will be avid for the latest novelty and collect themselves a whole series of teachers according to their own tastes; and then, instead of listening to the truth, they will turn to myths. Be careful always to choose the right course; be brave under trials; make the preaching of the Good News your life's work, in thoroughgoing service. As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, as the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jam 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

Mt 13:24-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Year B ad libitum

First Reading

Jer 1:4-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Go now to those to whom I send you.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,
'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.'
I said, 'Ah, Lord; look, I do not know how to speak: I am a child!'
But the Lord replied,
'Do not say, "I am a child".
Go now to those to whom I send you
and say whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to protect you –
it is the Lord who speaks!'
Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me:
'There! I am putting my words into your mouth.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 116. R/. Mark 16:15

Response: Go out to the whole world and tell the Good News.

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples! **R/.**
2. Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever. **R/.**

Second Reading

Rom 10:9-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Faith comes from what is preached, and what is preached comes from the word of Christ.

If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

But they will not ask his help unless they believe in him, and they will not believe in him unless they have heard of him, and they will not hear of him unless they get a preacher, and they will never have a preacher unless one is sent, but as scripture says: The footsteps of those who bring good news are a welcome sound. Not everyone, of course, listens to the Good News. As Isaiah says: Lord, how many believed what we proclaimed? So faith comes from what is preached, and what is preached comes from the word of Christ. Let me put the question: is it possible that they did not hear? Indeed they did; in the words of the psalm, their voice has gone out through all the earth, and their message to the ends of the world.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 28:19-20

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Go, make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel Reading

Mk 16:15 -20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

They, going out, preached everywhere.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and he said to them, ‘Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.’

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Year C ad libitum

First Reading

Am 7:12-15

A reading from the prophet Amos.

It was the Lord took me from herding the flock.

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, ‘Go away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.’ ‘I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,’ Amos replied to Amaziah. ‘I was a shepherd and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord said, “Go prophesy to my people Israel.”’

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 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. For it is 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. **R/.**

Second Reading

1 Thess 2:2-8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

Never at any time have our speeches been simply flattery, or a cover for trying to get money.

It was our God who gave us the courage to proclaim his Good News to you in the face of great opposition. We have not taken to preaching because we are deluded, or immoral, or trying to deceive anyone; it was God who decided that we were fit to be entrusted with the Good News, and when we are speaking, we are not trying to please men but God, who can read our inmost thoughts. You know very well, and we can swear it before God, that never at any time have our speeches been simply flattery, or a cover for trying to get money; nor have we ever looked for any special honour from men, either from you or anybody else, when we could have imposed ourselves on you with full weight, as apostles of Christ. Instead, we were unassuming. Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 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

Lk 5:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

'Lord, I am a sinful man.' Jesus said, *'Do not be afraid.'*

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied, 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then bringing their boats back to the land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayer over the Offerings

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 and just.

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 proclaim your greatness with due 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 your Spirit you directed his paths
to win the sons and daughters of the Irish
to the service of the Triune God.

And so, with the Angels and Archangels,
and with the great multitude of the Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise,
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...

Communion Antiphon

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.

Cf. Mt 8:11

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.
