

Priests of the Parish

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PARISH OF THE HOLY REDEEMER, DUNDALK
17th March 2011; Solemnity of St Patrick

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

Celebrating our Pentecostal faith in the Eucharist, we continue to be a vibrant, inclusive, faith community, in the Spirit of our loving Redeemer.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
 10am - 4pm

www.holyredeemerparish.ie

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Guím rath, séan agus beannacht oraibh uilig ar ócáid Lá le Pádraig, Aspal Éireann.

ST. PATRICK: Born about the early fifth century; As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured and taken to Ireland as a slave, Ireland at this time was a land of Druids and pagans. He learned the language and practices of the people who held him. During his captivity, he turned to God in prayer, Patrick escaped after having a dream from God. He began his studies for the priesthood. Later, Patrick was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland March 25, 433, at Slane. Patrick worked in Ireland for 40 years performing many miracles and wrote of his love for God in "Patrick's Confessions". After years of living in poverty, travelling and enduring much suffering he died at Saul, Downpatrick, c 491.

ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY we are asked to remember in our prayers those who have emigrated. Many of you reading this will no doubt have been touched by the sense of loss that comes with a loved one emigrating. Thus, it is fitting that on the Feast of our National Patron, we again seek to highlight the needs of the many Irish emigrants spread throughout the world.

Prayer for the Faithful by Saint Patrick

*May the Strength of God guide us.
 May the Power of God preserve us.
 May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
 May the Hand of God protect us.
 May the Way of God direct us.
 May the Shield of God defend us.
 May the Angels of God guard us.
 - Against the snares of the evil one.*

*May Christ be with us!
 May Christ be before us!
 May Christ be in us,
 Christ be over all!*

*May Thy Grace, Lord,
 Always be ours,
 This day, O Lord, and forevermore.
 Amen.*



TRÓCAIRE: This Lent you are invited to walk with Digna and her community, La Confianza, from Honduras in Central America. Digna is the face of the campaign.

The hut we have constructed in The Church is an example of where she lives **now** – we hope our contributions could improve this for her. **Palm Sunday (17th April) is our donation day.** We greatly appreciate your continued support of Trócaire, without which we simply could not run this Campaign. Boxes are available in the porches of the Church.

The collection today is in support of Emigrants.

EMIGRATION STATISTICS:

- There are approximately 50,000 undocumented Irish living in the United States.
- In 2009, the number of Irish people granted residence visas to live in Australia increased by 25% to 2,501. A further 22,786 people under 35 years of age took up working holiday visas. (*The Irish Times – 25 Jan 2010*).
- Canada issued 1,471 visas to Irish nationals in the first 6 months of 2009 and is on course to issue 3,000 for the full year. Last year it was 2,607. Regarding the figures for 2010 'USIT said it filled its compliment of 1,000 places for its 12 month working holiday programme for people under 35 in just two days.' (*Irish Times – 14 Jan 2010*).

Pastoral Areas.

Fr. Rushe: Ashling Park, Farndreg Estate, New Farndreg, Castleross, Lis Na Dara, Carrick Road, Willowgrove, Mounthamilton Close, Railway Terrace, Demesne Terrace, Rockfield Gardens, Cedarwood Park, Beechmount Drive.

Fr. Montague: Woodland Park, Woodview Terrace, Oakland Park, Barton Park, Marian Park, Townspark, Ardee Road, St. Ronan's Terrace, Ard Easmuinn Mounthamilton, (Ardee Road), Knockbridge Road, Ballybarrack, Patrick Tierney Terrace, Mount Avenue. Brickfield Close.

Reflection

St. Patrick, traced through time

If you walk a beach you see lines traced in the sands, remaining there till washed away. Or the way the sea can change the shape of the coast with its gentle and rough tides.

Our feast this day is one of whose lines have not been washed away, the one who traced the gospel of Jesus on the shores of a country and shaped its future; for what he traced in the hearts of people has remained through centuries of prosperity and of poverty, of persecution and peace- the faith of Patrick and its effects through a history of hardship, The statue of Patrick in younger countries, where his people shared that faith, the words of Patrick, a consolation and a spur to put the concerns of God first in life.

And with Patrick we recall our people who shared faith and love in the homes of their own country and among their own people; parents, grandparents, extended family, priests, sisters, brothers. and men and women who, like Patrick, heard that call to go among others and share that message of God's saving love for people; of education, health and dignity where those might not be found.

QUOTES FROM ST. PATRICK'S 'CONFESSIONS'

I am Patrick, a sinner, most unlearned, the least of all the faithful, and utterly despised by many. My father was Calpornius, a deacon, son of Potitus, a priest, of the village Bannavem Taburni; he had a country seat nearby, and there I was taken captive.

Hence I cannot be silent — nor, indeed, is it expedient — about the great benefits and the great grace which the lord has deigned to bestow upon me in the land of my captivity; for this we can give to God in return after having been chastened by Him, to exalt and praise His wonders before every nation that is anywhere under the heaven.

I beg Him to grant me that I may shed my blood with those exiles and captives for His name, even though I should be denied a grave, or my body be woefully torn to pieces limb by limb by hounds or wild beasts, or the fowls of the air devour it. I am firmly convinced that if this should happen to me, I would have gained my soul together with my body, because on that day without doubt we shall rise in the brightness of the sun, that is, in the glory of Christ Jesus our Redeemer, as sons of the living God and joint heirs with Christ, to be made conformable to His image; for of Him, and by Him, and in Him we shall reign.