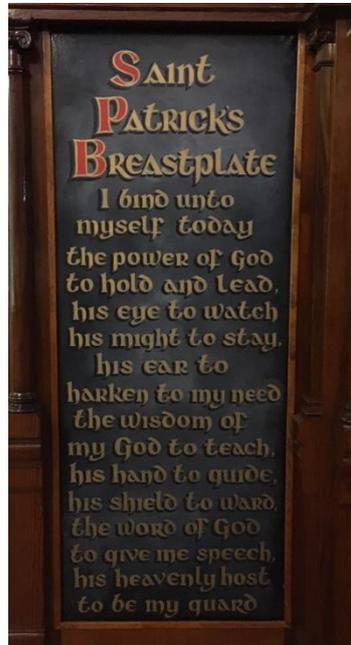


## St. Patrick is the patron Saint of Ireland and is celebrated every year on his feast day – March 17<sup>th</sup>

Born in roman Britain, St. Patrick's value doesn't really come from the historical details of his life but from the inspiration of a man who returned to the country where he had been a child slave, as a missionary in order to bring the message of Christ and thus played a major part in converting the Irish people to Christianity.



St. Patrick is traditionally associated with the Shamrock plant, which he used to explain the concept of the Trinity and the enduring myth that he banished the snakes from the island of Ireland which could be a reference to the serpent, a symbol of evil.

He believed that when "every nation" had heard the gospel, Christ would then return, and he believed that he was the person to bring this message of Christianity to the land that represented this "final hurdle" of God's plan.

Some of his writings survive, the Confessio and the Letter to Coroticus

The Confessio begins  
I am the sinner Patrick. I am the most unsophisticated of people, the least of Christians, and for many people I am the most contemptible...

I was taken into captivity in Ireland - at that time I was ignorant of the true God - along with many thousand others. This was our punishment for departing from God, abandoning his commandments, and ignoring our priests who kept on warning us about our salvation...

### St Patrick, Confessio, translated from Latin

There are many places associated with St. Patrick and some remain places of pilgrimage such as the mountain of Croagh Patrick in County Mayo, the pilgrimage island of Lough Derg in County Donegal and there are major shrines in Armagh in Northern Ireland and Glastonbury Abbey in England

Many churches and Cathedrals in Ireland are dedicated to him and the prayer attributed to him is St. Patrick's Breastplate. The photographs in this document were taken in St. Patrick's Church in Ballyshannon, County Donegal.



A longer version can be found here  
<http://wesleyananglican.blogspot.com/2015/03/the-feast-of-st-patrick.html>

Hymn ideas can be found here  
<http://www.liturgytools.net/2013/02/hymns-for-saint-patricks-day-feast.html>

And readings and prayers from the Roman Catholic tradition can be found here  
<http://www.liturgies.net/saints/patrick/readings.htm>