

So, Who is St Patrick?

St Patrick's Day is a Saint's day – but who was Patrick?

There's the history and there's the legends.

Here's a quick history of Patrick

- Born and raised in Britain
(That's right he wasn't Irish!)
- Born around 390AD into a Christian family
- His father was a deacon; his grandfather a priest
(That's right, a married priest!)
- Kidnapped into slavery by Irish aged 16
- Worked as a shepherd slave in East Antrim for 6 years
- Converted to Christianity while in slavery
(That's right, he needed to be born again)
- Escaped back to home in Britain where he trained for ministry
- Returned permanently to Ireland around 432AD
- Spent 30 years a missionary, preaching the gospel
(That's right, preaching to convert people!)
- Baptized thousands, ordained clergy and negotiated with tribal chiefs
- Met fierce opposition and persecution
- Saw Ireland changing from paganism to Christ
- Died around 460AD
(17th March is traditionally celebrated as the day he died)



St Patrick's Message For You

What Patrick Wants You To Know

Quotes from St Patrick's Confession

About his conversion

"My name is Patrick. I am a sinner, ... I did not know the true God...had gone away from God, and did not keep his commandments ...I recognized my failings. So I turned with all my heart to the Lord my God, and he looked down on my lowliness and had mercy on my youthful ignorance."

About the motivation for speaking

"That is why I cannot be silent – nor would it be good to do so.... This is how we can repay such blessings, when our lives change and we come to know God, to praise and bear witness to his great wonders before every nation under heaven."

About the truth for all people

There is no other God, nor will there ever be, nor was there ever, except God the Father. ... And his son, Jesus Christ... Let every tongue confess that Jesus Christ...is Lord and God. He is judge of the living and of the dead; ... He has generously poured on us the Holy Spirit.... This is the one we acknowledge and adore – one God in a trinity.

About his missionary success

I am greatly in debt to God. He gave me such great grace, that through me, many people should be born again in God and brought to full life.”

http://www.confessio.ie/etexts/confessio_english#

St Patrick's Message For You

It's not just 5th century Ireland that needed to hear of sins forgiven in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

It's 21st century Australia that needs to hear of sins forgiven in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

And it's not just nations that need to be saved through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

It's individuals, like you, who need to be born again through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Like Patrick we all need to admit to God that we've ignored and rejected him. We all need forgiveness and should ask God to forgive us on the basis of Jesus' death in our place. We should ask God to change us from being a rebel who ignores God to somebody who lives with Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Dear God

I now that I am not worthy to be accepted by you. I don't deserve your gift of eternal life. I am guilty of rebelling against you and ignoring you.

Thank you for sending your son to die for me that I may be forgiven. Thank you that he rose from the dead to give me new life.

Please forgive me and change me, that I may live with Jesus as my ruler.

Amen



For more information about Patrick's message

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