

HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY

Where did Patrick find the courage and confidence he needed to do what was asked of him? And, more pertinently: where can we find ours? In his *Confessio* he tells us that he prayed a lot and he explains that thereby the Holy Spirit took complete control of him. He writes: *I believe it was Christ my Lord who came to my assistance, and that it was His Spirit, not myself, who was already, calling out on my behalf.* The whole of the *Confessio* is punctuated by Patrick's testimony about his constant recourse to prayer – humble prayer. In his prayer Patrick expressed his hope and trust in God. He doesn't blow his own trumpet at any point. He writes: *I owe everything to the Lord. It was by His grace working through me that many people were born again to God, and soon after that they were confirmed.* Elsewhere he writes: *People can laugh and sneer at me if they like.* And yet again he comes back on his own littleness and weakness, speaking about how God overlooked his foolishness and negligence. He tells us: *Even though I was hand-picked as His helper, I was slow enough on the uptake about what was being revealed to me by the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. Time out of number the Lord had pity on me, for he saw that my heart was in the right place. (...) I have to admit I was slow to grasp how much grace was in me.* Patrick's whole purpose in sharing his experience is to encourage others – to encourage us. It is to turn us in the right direction: in the direction of God's grace and power which shines forth in weakness.



The prayer of St Patrick for his people:



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

Prayer for Emigrants

Bless all those who have left our country and now live in other lands. Give them a strong faith so that they will always put their trust in you and make you known by the example of their lives. Console those who are lonely because they are separated from those they love. Help all missionaries who are working far from home to make your love known. Bless our people overseas who are sick or in prison. We pray for foreigners living in our country that they may experience our hospitality. Grant your eternal welcome to our emigrants who have died and to all the dead. **Amen**

Céad míle fáilte romhat, a Íosa, a Íosa
Céad míle fáilte romhat, a Íosa
Céad míle fáilte romhat a Shlánaítheoir
Céad míle míle fáilte romhat, a Íosa, a Íosa

Glóir agus moladh duit, a Íosa, a Íosa
Glóir agus moladh duit, a Íosa
Glóir agus moladh duit, a Shlánaítheoir
Glóir, moladh agus buíochas duit, a Íosa, a Íosa

Christ be with me [Prayer of St Patrick]

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me and before me.
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in hearts of all who know me.
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger,
Christ in quiet and in roar.

Love, blessed Trinity of three, Bound in unity
Who guides my journey. I will arise with strength of heaven
Trusting in Your light to guide my journey
Shine before me, Lead me home.

Power to guide me, might to hold me, wisdom to teach me,
watching o'er me. Ear to hear me, hand to guard me,
Love to conquer every fear.

Hail glorious Saint Patrick, dear saint of our isle

On us thy poor children bestow a sweet smile
And now thou art high in the mansions above
On Erin's green valleys look down in thy love
On Erin's green valleys
On Erin's green valleys
On Erin's green valleys
Look down in thy love

Hail glorious Saint Patrick, thy
words were once strong
Against Satan's wiles and an
infidel throng
Not less is thy might wherein
Heaven thou art
O come to our aid, in our battles,
take part
O come to our aid O come to our
aid
O come to our aid, in our battles,
take part

