



Have mercy on us and on the whole world



POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS MARCH 2024



We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

Saint Patrick – The Apostle of Ireland

A Romano-Briton, Patrick was born in 385ad. His father is believed to have been a government official in the area of Britain controlled by the Roman Empire. At the age of sixteen, the young Patrick was taken as a captive to Ireland – escaping from his slavery after six years later. He then pursued his education in a monastery on the continent and was ordained a priest. About 432ad, he requested permission to return to preach the faith in the land of his captives.

After being ordained as a Bishop, Patrick went back to Ireland as a missionary. Whatever may be said of the information supplied by his biographers (which in some instances are clearly and obviously conflicting or legendary) the fact still remains that Saint Patrick and his companions 'formally' established the Catholic Church throughout Ireland on lasting foundations. He travelled throughout the country preaching, teaching, building Churches, opening schools and monasteries, converting local chieftains and bards. The Church in Ireland being under the English Bishops up until the time of Patrick. He was the first organiser of the "Irish" Catholic Church, with the Primal See established at Armagh in 444ad. He was named as "Apostle of Ireland".

He is shown vested as a bishop driving snakes before him or trampling upon them – the snake long being a symbol of evil and sin. Also associated with him is the shamrock – which is said he used to teach people about the mystery of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity.

"I bind unto myself today, the strong name of the Trinity by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three".

"The Truth will set you free..."

We read in the Bible that the real truth comes from God - for He is the source of all that is 'truth'. Though the source of the "eternal truth", it is rare for God Himself to directly intervene in the affairs of the peoples of the world. To each He has given the gift of freewill and this gift He will not take back. By direct intervention He would be compromising this freewill and therefore cause a question over the reason for our faith in Him. God prefers to work through His creation - the world around us and the people that inhabit it. Down through the centuries He spoke through various messengers - the great prophets of the Old Testament and then finally through Jesus Christ. And the message proclaimed by Christ is proclaimed today in our world through the lives of His disciples. It is for the people of the world to listen to His word, to hear the Truth of His message and to put it into action in their lives.

At times this will not be easy for the Truth can be harsh and blunt. But like justice, Truth does not change with circumstances or with public opinion – if it did it would be in a constant state of change. The real truth, God's truth, is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow - the same forever.

Repent + Believe in the Gospel



Dominican Priory Newsletter

1224 Dominicans - 800 years in 2024

The Season of Lent

+ Fifth Sunday of Lent St Patrick's Day 17th March 2024

~~~This Sunday's Readings & Gospel~~~

### First Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

The Lord speaks to Jeremiah, at a time when the people had turned away from the Mosaic Covenant and begun to practice the pagan ways of Baal. God tells Jeremiah that He will make a new covenant with the people and will place His Law in their hearts. Once again, He will be their God and they, His people. They will all come to know Him, and He will forgive their sins.

### Reading from the Letters of Saint Paul

Saint Paul writes to the Hebrews who have begun to doubt that Jesus is really the Messiah. He reminds that Christ constantly prayed and interceded for them with the Father. That Jesus was so obedient that His prayers were heard. Through His suffering and death, He has become the source of eternal salvation for all who follow Him.

### Holy Gospel according to Saint John

The Greeks came to hear of Jesus and so they came to see Him. When Jesus is told this, He replies that the hour of His glorification is now close at hand. Using the example of a grain of wheat, Jesus tells them that it is only through death that life will be possible. Anyone who clings to their mortal life will lose their eternal life. But anyone who cares more for the things of heaven will have eternal life. Jesus tells them that anyone who stays faithful to Him, He in turn will be faithful to them. Posing questions Jesus asks them if He should request the Father release Him from His future.

But this is not possible, because this is why Jesus came into the world. A voice came from heaven saying - 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again'. Those gathered round Him were confused by what happened and so Jesus tells them that they were permitted to hear "the voice" so that they may understand what Jesus has come to do. Then Jesus indicates that He is to die and gives the reason for it.



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800<sup>th</sup> JUBILEE ORDER OF PREACHERS IN IRELAND

