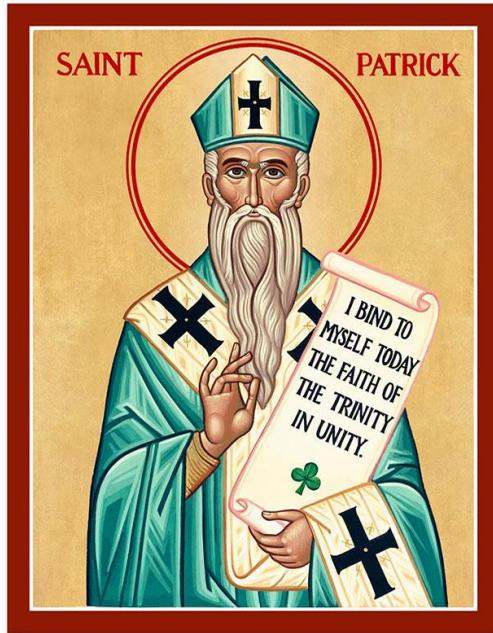


The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# St Patrick

Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland



## Mass

*live streamed from the Vicarage  
during the Coronavirus Pandemic*

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
7.30 pm

# St Patrick

Patrick was a Romano-Briton born in about the year 390 of Christian parents in the latter years of the Roman Empire in Britain. The exact place of his birth – named by him in his *Confession* as Banaven Taberniae – has never been identified. Claims from places in West Britain as far apart as Dumbarton and Cornwall have been made; present day opinion favours the neighbourhood of Carlisle.

He was captured by Irish raiders when he was sixteen years old and taken to Ireland as a slave. After six years, he escaped and seems to have gone to continental Europe. He eventually found his way back to his own family, where his previously-nominal Christian faith grew and matured. He returned to Gaul and was there trained as a priest and much influenced by the form of manasticism evolving under Martin of Tours. When he was in his early forties, he returned to Ireland as a bishop, ministering first at Saul near Downpatrick, and later making his abase at Armagh, which became the centre of his See. He evangelized the people of the land by walking all over his island, gently bringing men and women to a knowledge of Christ. Although he faced fierce opposition and possible persecution, he continued his missionary journeys.

Patrick left two pieces of writing which are accepted as genuine, his *Confession* and a *Letter to Coroticus*. These are of immense value as they reveal Patrick the man, humble and aware that all he achieved was by the grace of Christ. Irish Christians today, of all traditions, equally identify with his holy man and draw inspiration from his life and writings.

Despite being unsuccessful in his attempts to establish the diocesan system he had experienced in Gaul, his monastic foundations proved to be the infrastructure required to maintain the faith after his death, which occurred on this day in the year 461.

## Reflection / Prayer

Patrick was a humble, prayerful person.  
He had a great capacity to forgive  
and a deep love for people.  
The faith he preached brought hope and vision  
into the lives of those who embraced it,  
inspiring in them a spirit of sacrifice and service.  
Lord, may we embrace the Gospel,  
not as a burden, but as a source of liberation.  
And may we experience joy in living it.

## ¶ A Corporate Preparation for Mass

*The Priest enters in silence, genuflects, and kneels facing the altar*

*After a period of silent recollection ...*

**All** I will go to the altar of God  
**to the God of my joy and gladness.**

Give judgement for me, O God,  
and defend my cause against an ungodly people:  
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.  
**All** **For you are the God of my refuge;**  
**why have you cast me from you,**  
**and why do I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?**

O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me:  
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.  
**All** **That I may go to the altar of God,**  
**to the God of my joy and gladness;**  
**and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,  
and why are you so disquieted within me?  
**All** **O put your trust in God;**  
**for I will yet give him thanks,**  
**who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

I will go to the altar of God.  
**All** **To the God of my joy and gladness.**

# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All**      **Amen.**

Sing to the Lord and bless his name; tell out his salvation from day to day.

## The Greeting

The Lord our redeemer be with you

**All**      **and also with you.**

## Prayers of Penitence

In bringing the Gospel to the people of Ireland

Patrick endured many hardships.

What sustained him in all his difficulties was daily prayer.

Prayer will sustain us too.

Let us turn to God in penitence and faith.

*A period of silent reflection*

## Confession

**All**      **God of mercy,**  
**we acknowledge that we are all sinners.**  
**We turn from the wrong that we have thought**  
**and said and done,**  
**and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.**  
**For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,**  
**forgive us all that is past,**  
**and help us to live each day**  
**in the light of Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## Kyries

Lord Jesus, you give us strength when we are weak,  
and courage when we are afraid:

Lord, have mercy.

**All**     **Lord, have mercy.**

You keep our feet from stumbling and our hearts from straying:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All**     **Christ, have mercy.**

You guard our coming and going both now and for ever:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All**     **Lord, have mercy.**

## Absolution

May God our Father forgive † you your sins,  
and bring you to the fellowship of his table  
with his saints for ever.

**All**     **Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
who in your providence chose your servant Patrick  
to be the apostle of the Irish people:  
keep alive in us the fire of the faith he kindled  
and strengthen us in our pilgrimage  
    towards the light of everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All**     **Amen.**

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

2 Corinthians 4:1-12

*Reader* A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All**      **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 145:2-13

Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name for ever and ever.  
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;  
his greatness is beyond all searching out.

**All**      **I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your name for ever.**

One generation shall praise your works to another  
and declare your mighty acts.

They shall speak of the majesty of your glory,  
and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**All I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your name for ever.**

They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts,  
and I will also tell of your greatness.

They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness  
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

**All I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your name for ever.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
long-suffering and of great goodness.

The Lord is loving to everyone  
and his mercy is over all his creatures.

**All I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your name for ever.**

All your works praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful servants bless you.

They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your mighty power,

**All I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your name for ever.**

To make known to all peoples your mighty acts  
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your dominion endure through all ages.

**All I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your name for ever.**

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:16-23

## Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Make disciples of the nations:

baptizing and teaching them, as I have commanded you.

**All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

**All** The Lord our redeemer be with you  
**and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**All** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**All** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Reflection

*A brief word about this evening's observance*

## Prayers of the Faithful

Let us pray to God for our own needs, the needs of our country,  
and of the world.

*After each petition*

Lord, hear us  
**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

*After the final petition*

God of power and love,  
grant us in all our tasks your help,  
in all our doubts your guidance,  
in all our weaknesses your strength,  
in all our sorrows your consolation,  
and in all our dangers your protection.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Sign of Peace

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God,  
through Christ our Lord,  
who came and preached peace to those who were far off  
and those who were near.

**All** The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

As you are able, let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

## The Offertory

*The altar is prepared*

## Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,  
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**All**     **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord, accept this our sacrifice  
which, through the labours of Saint Patrick,  
your grateful people make to the glory of your name.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**     **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

**All**     The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

**All**     Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

**All**     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we give you thanks  
for the work of your grace in the life of Saint Patrick.  
As a shepherd of your flock he imitated your Son,  
inspired us by his life  
and taught us by his preaching.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**All**      **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**All** Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All** **Blessing and honour and glory and power**  
**be yours for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

*The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung*

## The Lord's Prayer

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*All*      **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

No one shall live on bread alone:  
*All*      **The word of God is life for all.**  
By the word of God were the heavens made:  
*All*      **The word of God is life for all.**  
Speak the word, Lord, and we shall be healed:  
*All*      **The word of God is life for all.**

## Agnus Dei

*All*      **Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## Invitation to Communion

I heard the voice of a great multitude:

**All Blessed are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb.**

## Giving of Communion

I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom,  
so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom.

## Spiritual Communion – *for those at home*

*It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:*

## Act of Reception

**All In union, blessed Jesus,  
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church  
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,**

*(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)*

**I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,  
for creation and all the blessings of this life,  
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,  
and resurrection,  
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.**

*(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)*

**I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,  
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,  
I pray you to come into my heart.  
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,  
my soul, and my mind.  
Let nothing separate me from you;  
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,  
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.  
Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

O Lord, strengthen us by our worship,  
so that we may profess the faith taught by Saint Patrick  
and proclaim it by our way of living.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**God of our pilgrimage,  
you have fed with your holy word  
and we look forward to the day when we may together  
receive you in the sacrament of the eucharist.  
Refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our Lenten journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Sending Out

**All The Lord our redeemer be with you  
and also with you.**

## The Blessing

May the power of God uphold you,  
and the wisdom of God instruct you.  
*All* **Amen.**

May the hand of God protect you,  
and the light of God guide you.  
*All* **Amen.**

May the shield of God defend you,  
and the angels of God watch over you.  
*All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
*All* **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

# Words attributed to Saint Patrick

*translated by C F Alexander (1818-1895)  
and sung to the tune 'St Patrick's Breastplate'*

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

I bind this day to me for ever,  
By power of faith, Christ's Incarnation,  
His baptism in Jordan river;  
His death on Cross for my salvation;  
His bursting from the spiced tomb;  
His riding up the heavenly way;  
His coming at the day of doom;  
I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself the power  
Of the great love of Cherubim;  
The sweet 'Well done' in judgement hour;  
The service of the Seraphim,  
Confessors' faith, Apostles' word,  
The Patriarchs' prayers, the Prophets' scrolls,  
All good deeds done unto the Lord,  
And purity of virgin souls.

I bind unto myself today  
The virtues of the star-lit heaven,  
The glorious sun's life-giving ray,  
The whiteness of the moon at even,  
The flashing of the lightning free,  
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,  
The stable earth, the deep salt sea,  
Around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead,  
His eye to watch, his might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to my need.  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, his shield to ward;  
The word of God to give me speech,  
His heavenly host to be my guard.

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

*Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all who love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

I bind unto myself the name,  
The strong name of the Trinity;  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One, and One in Three.  
Of whom all nature hath creation;  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.