

The Eucharist

17 March 2023 ♦ ST PATRICK, PRINCIPAL PATRON OF IRELAND / A



Patrick begins his *Confessions* thus: 'My name is Patrick. God sent me on a mission to Ireland. I am very grateful to God for the care he took of me during all my years.' Irish Christians, in Ireland and elsewhere, should also be grateful to Patrick for sowing the seeds of Christianity in Ireland.



'I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

FIRST READING (Ecclesiasticus 39:6-10)

In his *Confessions*, Patrick thanked God for the six years of slavery he spent in Ireland. It was, he writes, a time of great loneliness but also of deep prayer. It was a time of reflection during which he converted from being a nominal Christian to being a committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING (2 Timothy 4:1-8)

If Patrick had thought of his own comfort, he would have remained in Great Britain where he could have had a comfortable, respected position. But Patrick decided to go to the frontiers of the civilised world and to bring the Gospel to the Irish. He remained faithful to his difficult mission.

GOSPEL (Matthew 13:24-32)

Jesus sends out the disciples on mission. Mission, in the modern world, is extremely challenging. Where Christianity is concerned, we should not ask, what can your Christian faith do for you, but what can you do for your Christian faith? Like St Patrick, we should make a conscious decision to live each day in a Christian way.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon (Gn 12:1-2)

Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

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

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

Gloria to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect

Lord, through the work of Saint Patrick in Ireland we have come to acknowledge the mystery of the one true God and give thanks for our salvation in Christ; grant by his prayers that we who celebrate this festival may keep alive the fire of faith he kindled. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING (Eccles 39:6-10)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

If it is the will of the great Lord, the scholar will be filled with the spirit of understanding, he will shower forth words of wisdom, and in prayer give thanks to the Lord. He will grow upright in purpose and learning, he will ponder the Lord's hidden mysteries. He will display the instruction he has received, taking his pride in the Law of the Lord's covenant. Many will praise his understanding, and it will never be forgotten. His memory will not disappear, generation after generation his name will live. Nations will proclaim his wisdom, the assembly will celebrate his praises.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 115:12-19)

R How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?

1. How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name. **R**
2. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people.
O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **R**
3. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name. **R**
4. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R**

SECOND READING (2 Tm 4:1-8)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy.
Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message

and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience — but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching. The time is sure to come when, far from being content with sound teaching, people will be avid for the latest novelty and collect themselves a whole series of teachers according to their own tastes; and then, instead of listening to the truth, they will turn to myths. Be careful always to choose the right course; be brave under trials; make the preaching of the Good News your life's work, in thoroughgoing service.


As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Jas 1:21)

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Accept and submit to the word
which has been planted in you
and can save your souls.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

GOSPEL (Mt 13:24-32)

 The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this," he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air can come and shelter in its branches.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including
and became man, all bow.*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**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 holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

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

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer III

(Preface of St Patrick)

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
and to proclaim your greatness with due praise
as we honour Saint Patrick.

For you drew him through daily prayer
in captivity and hardship
to know you as a loving Father.

You chose him out of all the world
to return to the land of his captors,
that they might acknowledge Jesus Christ,
their Redeemer.

In the power of your Spirit you directed his paths
to win the sons and daughters of the Irish
to the service of the Triune God.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
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.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
and all you have created
rightly gives you praise,
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,
you give life to all things and make them holy,
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:
by the same Spirit graciously make holy
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,
that they may become the Body and ✠ Blood
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed
he himself took bread,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,

FOR THIS IS MY BODY,

WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,

FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,

THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,

WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY

FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial
of the saving Passion of your Son,
his wondrous Resurrection
and Ascension into heaven,
and as we look forward to his second coming,
we offer you in thanksgiving
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church
and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,
grant that we, who are nourished
by the Body and Blood of your Son
and filled with his Holy Spirit,
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us
an eternal offering to you,
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,

Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs
(with Saint N.: the Saint of the day or Patron Saint)
and with all the Saints,
on whose constant intercession in your presence
we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,
we pray, O Lord,
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity
your pilgrim Church on earth,
with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,
whom you have summoned before you:
in your compassion, O merciful Father,
gather to yourself all your children
scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters
and to all who were pleasing to you
at their passing from this life,
give kind admittance to your kingdom.
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory
through Christ our Lord,
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, ...

Ár nAthair atá ar neamh,
go naofar d'ainm,
go dtaga do ríocht,
go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh,
mar a dhéantar ar neamh.
Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu,
agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha,
mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin,
agus ná lig sinn i gcathú,
ach saor sinn ó olc.

Deliver us, Lord, ...

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, ...

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

And with your spirit.

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated
Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

Showing the Eucharist to the people, the priest says:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Mt 8:11)

**Many will come from east and west
and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
at the feast in the kingdom of heaven, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

Strengthen us, O Lord, by this sacrament
so that we may profess the faith taught by Saint Patrick
and proclaim it in our way of living.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May God the Father, who called us together
to celebrate the solemnity of Saint Patrick,
bless you, protect you, and keep you faithful.

Amen.

May Christ the Lord, the High King of Heaven,
be near you at all times and shield you from evil.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, who is the source of all holiness,
make you rich in the love of God's people.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer to Saint Patrick

O blessed apostle of Ireland, glorious Saint Patrick, many
centuries ago you converted Ireland to Christ. Receive
my grateful and heartfelt prayers today and intercede
for me and for those I love.

I unite my prayers to those of all your spiritual children,
turning confidently to God through the ages. May I
begin anew at this moment to love God with all my heart
and serve him with all my strength.

Gain for me that missionary spirit which inspired you to
work for the Gospel. Open my heart to charity for all the
poor that they may find joy and relief and give glory to
God with all the saints. Amen.