

Today, when people from every continent like to trace even their slightest connections with Ireland and the Irish, Saint Patrick can truly be hailed as ‘a saint for all the world’.

Our patron saint’s name has been carried around the world by generations of Irish emigrants and missionaries - his appeal remains both local and global. In a special way therefore I extend greetings this year to the many migrants who have recently come to Ireland. Céad míle fáilte romhaibh!

When Saint Patrick returned to Ireland as a bishop, almost sixteen centuries ago, he saw himself as a messenger of God’s love and closeness, sent to bring the Good News to the ‘ends of the earth’. He was ready to give his life completely to his new ‘flock’ in Ireland, even though as he says himself in his writings, he had to endure much hardship, many insults and taunts for being ‘a foreigner’ (*Confession of Saint Patrick, 37*).

Saint Patrick’s personal experience of being trafficked to this island as a teenage slave had a deep and lifelong impact on him. The trauma of being uprooted from family and friends at such an early age gave him a particular empathy for victims of human trafficking. Patrick’s captivity transformed and shaped his whole life and his relationships with God and others. In his slavery and isolation he discovered through prayer a warm and personal friendship with God which he instinctively wanted to communicate to everyone he met.

In that sense Saint Patrick is truly a saint for modern times. His witness and courage speaks to all the world. He challenges us to listen out for the cry of the poor, the ordeal of the migrant, the loneliness of those displaced through war and violence. His experience raises awareness of the injustice of human trafficking which shockingly continues here in Ireland, North and South, in 2023. If we seriously wish to trace our connections with Saint Patrick this week, then we must open our hearts and minds to those who are struggling to survive such cruelty and exploitation in today’s world. *Bishop Eamonn Martin*

An Irish Prayer
 May God give you...
 For every storm, a rainbow;
 for every tear, a smile;
 for every care, a promise;
 and a blessing in each trial.
 For every problem life sends,
 A faithful friend to share,
 for every sigh, a sweet song,
 and an answer for each prayer.

Don’t forget... Bingo tonight in St. Joseph’s Hall at 8.00pm!



Parish of Clones

Sacred Heart, Clones
 St Alphonsus, Conns
 St Macartan’s, Aghadrumsee

Parish Office
 9.30am—4.30pm (Monday—Friday)
 Telephone: 047 51048
 Email: info@clonesparish.ie
 Website: www.clonesparish.com

**17th March
 2023**
**St. Patrick’s
 Day**

Masses and Intentions for the Week Third Sunday of Lent

Vigil	7.30pm	Johnny & Mary Reilly, O’Neill Park; Gerard Finn, Cherry Park; Paddy Slowey, Clonmore
Sun 12th	9.30am 11.30am	Jim, Kathleen & Aidan Leonard, Killyliffer People of the Parish

Mon 13th	10.00am	No Mass
Tue 14th	7.30am	Mass of the Day
Wed 15th	10.00am	Michael & Nora McMahon, Aghafin
Thurs 16th	10.00am	McCaffrey Family, Clonlura, Lewis & Molly Slowey, Analore & Eamon Sherdian, Tanderagee
Fri 17th	9.00am 9.30am 11.30am	St Patrick, bishop, principal patron of Ireland <i>(Day of Prayer for Emigrants)</i> St Alphonsus, Conns St Macartan’s, Aghadrumsee Sacred Heart, Clones
Sat 18th	10.00am	No Mass

Fourth Sunday of Lent		
Vigil	7.30pm	Teresa & Michael Fitzgerald, Oakview; Pat (Paddy) Kelly, Clones & Dublin
Sun 19th	9.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Jim & Rose Conlan, Derrygoas Fr Dick Mohan, Memorial Mass Brendan McDermott, Bishops court (1st Anniversary)



Happy St. Patrick’s Day!



Mobile (in case of emergency): 085 817 6203.