



holyday focus



ST. PATRICK'S DAY 17TH MARCH YEAR C

GREETING

Go raibh an Tiarna libh. **Agus le do spiorad féin.**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

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

You came to call sinners:

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

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

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

May almighty God have mercy on us...**Amen.**

THE GLORIA

**Glory 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.**

OPENING PRAYER

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Amos 7:12-15*

A reading from the prophet Amos.

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go

away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah. 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 138*

**R. If I dwell at the sea's furthest end
even there you watch over me.**

1. O Lord, you search me and you know me, you know my resting and my rising, you discern my purpose from afar. You mark when I walk or lie down, all my ways lie open to you. **(R)**
2. O where can I go from your spirit, or where can I flee from your face? If I climb the heavens, you are there. If I lie in the grave, you are there. **(R)**
3. If I take the wings of the dawn and dwell at the sea's furthest end, even there your hand would lead me, your right hand would hold me fast. **(R)**
4. For it was you who created by being, knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you for the wonders of my being, for the wonders of all your creation. **(R)**

SECOND READING *Thessalonians 2:2-8*

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

It was our God who gave us the courage to proclaim his Good News to you in the face of great opposition. We have not taken to preaching because we are deluded, or immoral, or trying to deceive anyone; it was God who decided that we were fit to be entrusted with the Good News, and when we are speaking, we are not trying to please men but God, who can read our inmost thoughts. You know very well, and we can swear it before God, that never at any time have our speeches been simply flattery, or a cover for trying to get money; nor have we ever looked for any special honour from men, either from you or anybody else, when we could have imposed ourselves on you with full weight, as apostles of Christ. Instead, we were unassuming.





Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL Luke 5:1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

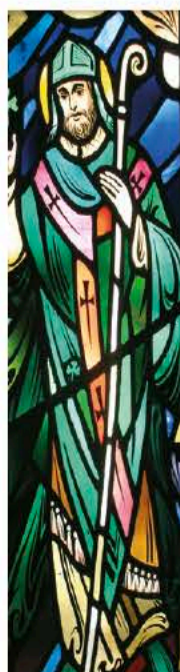
When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boats to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

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

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,



All bow for following three lines:

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.

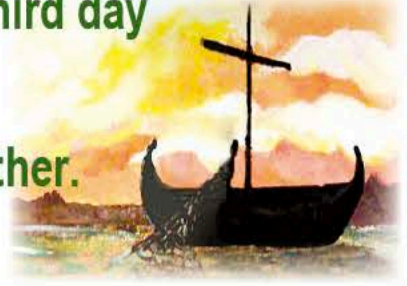
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

My Lord and my God.

There are many legends about Patrick that we don't need to believe in. For example, it is said that there never were snakes in Ireland. The country was separated from the continent at the end of the last ice, age so Patrick cannot be given the credit for this land being free of serpents. Why did that story about snakes become associated with Patrick? The reason is thought to be that in the bible, snakes are often seen as a symbol of evil and the story of Patrick driving snakes out of Ireland demonstrates the power of Christianity to challenge and overcome evil.

TODAY'S EVIL

What might he throw out today? The evil of drugs, power, corruption, abuse of others of any sort, extreme greed. He would try to bring us to God so that whatever is evil would be taken over, and something better found. His commitment was to spread the gospel of faith in Jesus Christ.

YOUNG FAITH

Patrick is an example of young faith, finding God in his late teens and then committing himself for good. He gives us a spur to believe in our young people, and that what we do for the faith of youth is always worth it.

From his experience of slavery in his youth, he became a mediator, and a peacemaker. He is at the centre of all the churches in Ireland. He was also a missionary who felt called to return to the Irish and spread the Good News of the Gospel.

Donal Neary SJ.