

St Patrick

The Man and The Myth

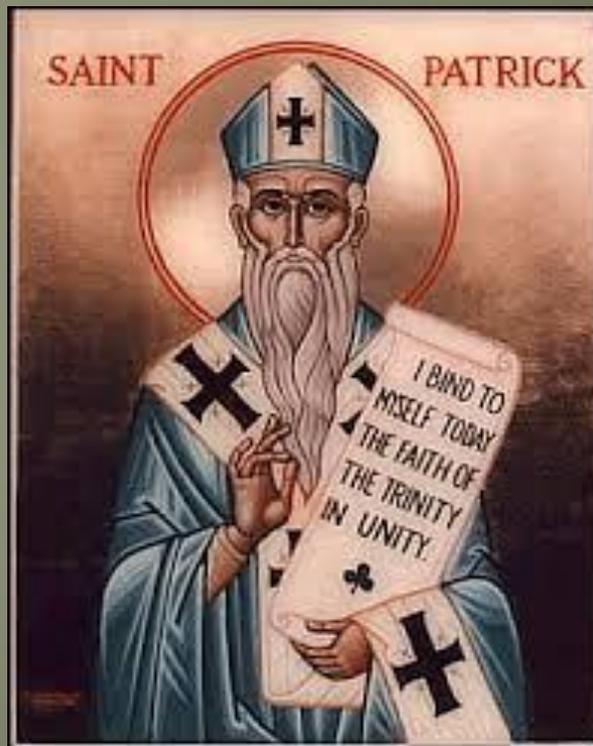
Things We Don't Know...



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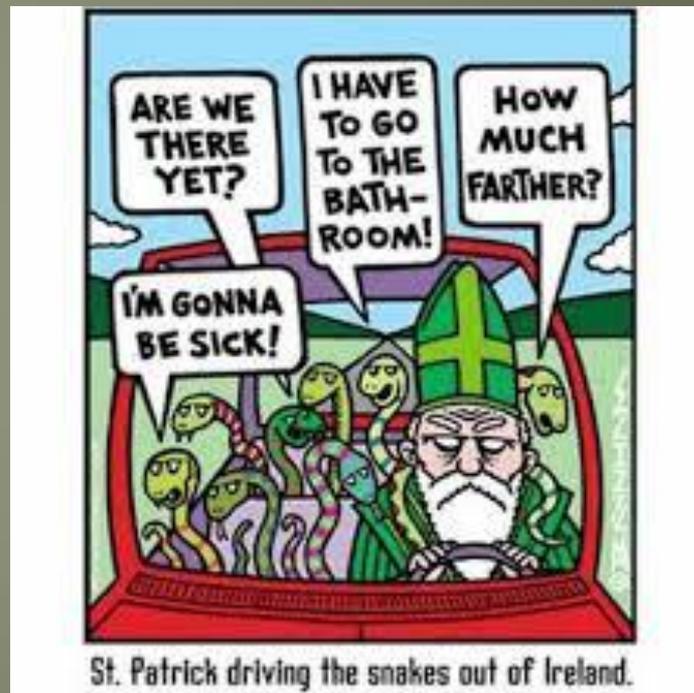
Things We Don't Know...



Things We Don't Know...



Things He Didn't Do...



Things He Didn't Do...



Things He Didn't Do...



Things He Didn't Do...



St Patrick's Day



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The Life of Patrick

- Born circa 390 AD in Bannavem Taburniae
- Around 16 captured by pirates and taken to Ireland
- Spent the next six years in Ireland
- Escaped (probably) to Gaul
- Began his mission to the Irish around circa 432 AD
- Died circa 460 AD

Patrick's Turning Point

'It was there [in Ireland] that the Lord opened up my awareness of my lack of faith. Even though it came about late, I recognised my failings. So I turned with all my heart to the Lord my God, and he looked down on my lowliness and had mercy on my youthful ignorance.'

‘More and more the love of God increased, and my sense of awe before God. Faith grew, and my spirit was moved, so that in one day I would pray up to one hundred times, and at night perhaps the same.’

The Reality of Suffering

‘We deserved this, because we had gone away from God, and did not keep his commandments. We would not listen to our priests, who advised us about how we could be saved. The Lord brought his strong anger upon us, and scattered us among many nations even to the ends of the earth. It was among foreigners that it was seen how little I was.’

‘It was there that the Lord opened up my awareness of my lack of faith. Even though it came about late, I recognised my failings. So I turned with all my heart to the Lord my God and he looked down on my lowliness and had mercy on my youthful ignorance.’

‘He guarded me before I knew him, and before I came to wisdom and could distinguish between good and evil. He protected me and consoled me as a father does for his son.’

'I am greatly in debt to God. He gave me such great grace, that through me, many people should be born again in God and brought to full life.'

‘I’ll never stop giving thanks to my God, who kept me faithful in the time of my temptation. I can today with confidence offer my soul to Christ my Lord as a living victim. He is the one who defended me in all my difficulties. I can say: Who am I, Lord, or what is my calling, that you have worked with me with such divine presence?’

'from the time in my youth that I came to know him, the love and reverence for God grew in me, and so far, with the Lord's help, I have kept faith...I want to give thanks to God without ceasing. He frequently forgave my lack of wisdom and my negligence, and more than once did not become very angry with me, the one who was meant to be his helper...The Lord was merciful to me a thousand, thousand times.'

‘I come to praise and magnify your name among the nations all the time, wherever I am, not only in good times but in the difficult times too. Whatever comes about for me, good or bad, I ought to accept them equally and give thanks to God.’

A Passion for the Gospel

‘I was far different then [in his youth] from what I am now, and I have care for others, and I have enough to do to save them. In those days I did not even have concern for my own welfare.’

His Missionary Motivation

1. His Personal Sense of Call
2. His Obedience to Scripture
3. His Conviction of Judgement
4. His Heart of Joy

‘That is why I cannot be silent – nor would it be good to do so – about such great blessings and such a gift that the Lord so kindly bestowed in the land of my captivity. This is how we can repay such blessings, when our lives change and we come to know God, to praise and bear witness to his great wonders before every nation under heaven.’