

## RESOURCES FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY 2021:

**St Patrick's Creed (from his "Confessions").**

*We can see in it great similarities to the Nicene Creed)*

There is no other God,  
nor will there ever be, nor was there ever,  
except God the Father.

He is the one who has not begotten, the one without a beginning,  
the one from whom all beginnings come,  
the one who holds all things in being; this is our teaching.

And his son, Jesus Christ, whom we testify has always been,  
since before the beginning of this age,  
with the Father in a spiritual way.

He was begotten in an indescribable way before every beginning.  
Everything we can see, and everything beyond our sight,  
was made through him.

He became a human being; and having overcome death,  
was welcomed to the heavens by the Father.

The Father gave him all power over every being,  
both heavenly and earthly and beneath the earth.

Let every tongue confess that Jesus Christ, in whom we believe  
and whom we await to come back to us in the near future,  
is Lord and God.

He is judge of the living and of the dead;  
he rewards every person according to their deeds;

He has generously poured on us the Holy Spirit,  
the gift of promise of immortality,

who makes believers and those who listen  
to be children of God and co-heirs with Christ.

This is the one we acknowledge and adore -  
one God in a trinity of the sacred name.

**Speak to us about God:**

There is a story told about Patrick in the Book of Armagh which comes to us from the 7<sup>th</sup> century. It tells of a noble woman Ethne Alba and her sister Fidelma, daughters of King Laoghaire of Connacht, who are said to have met Patrick and his bishops at the Holy well near Tulsk, in County Roscommon. The women did not know who the men were, nor their religion, and they asked the following questions:

**“Who is God and where is God  
Of whom is God, and where is God’s house?  
Has your God sons and daughters?  
Gold and Silver? Is God alive forever?  
Is God in heaven or on earth?  
In the sea, in the rivers,  
In the mountains, in the Valleys?  
Speak to us about God, Give us some idea of God.  
How may God be seen? How may he be loved?  
How may he be found?  
Is God found in Youth or Old Age?  
Speak to us of God.”**

And Patrick replied:

**Our God - God of All people  
God of heaven and earth of the sea and of the rivers  
God of the Sun and the moon and of all the stars,  
God of the high mountains and of the deep valleys.  
God is above heaven and in heaven and under heaven  
God has as His dwelling place heaven and earth and the sea  
and all that are in them.  
God’s life is in all things;  
God inspires all things,  
God governs all things,  
God supports all things.  
God kindles the light of the sun,  
God creates the light of the moon and stars.  
He makes wells in the arid earth and rocky islands in the sea.  
God has a Son who is co-eternal with him and of like nature.  
The Son is not younger than the Father  
nor the Father than the Son;  
and the Holy Spirit breathes in Them.  
Not separate are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

## SOME FURTHER QUOTES FROM PATRICK'S OWN WRITINGS:

Why not read it yourself at: [www.confessio.ie](http://www.confessio.ie)

### From St Patrick's 'Confession'

#12 I was like a stone lying deep in the mud. Then he who is powerful came and in his mercy pulled me out, and lifted me up and placed me on the very top of the wall. That is why I must shout aloud in return to the Lord for such great good deeds...

# 17 It was in the strength of God that I went - God who turned the direction of my life to good...

#20 I believe that I was helped by Christ the Lord, and that his spirit cried out for me. I trust that it will be like this whenever I am under stress, as the gospel says: "In that day, the Lord testifies, it will not be you will speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

#25 I remembered the apostle saying: "The Spirit helps the weaknesses of our prayer; for we do know what it is we should pray, but the very Spirit pleads for us with unspeakable sighs, which cannot be expressed in words." And again: "The Lord is our advocate, and pleads for us."

#55 I have cast myself into the hands of almighty God, who is the ruler of all places, as the prophet says: "Cast your concerns on God, and he will sustain you."

# 57 My Lord... knows the depths of my heart, my very gut feelings!

### Letter to the soldiers of Coroticus

#15 I do not know what to say, or how I can say any more, about the children of God who are dead... All I can do is what is written: 'Weep with those who weep'; and again: 'If one member suffers pain, let all the members suffer the pain with it'. This is why the church mourns and weeps for its sons and daughters ... taken away and exported to far distant lands.

### **BLESSING OF SHAMROCK:**

God of power and goodness,  
source of all grace and crown of all the saints,  
through the intercession of Saint Patrick  
we ask you to graciously bless us as we wear this shamrock.  
May we be eager to imitate him whose life we celebrate,  
and that our reward in heaven  
may be the company of Saint Patrick  
whose prayer for our protection is our comfort on earth.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

### **FOCUS ON DÓCHAS**

Here we go again! Another celebration of our national saint that will be different as necessary health restrictions stay in place. With time to prepare in 2021 many events have been planned to celebrate Irish culture and showcase our country and our talent online. A word that stands out from the Irish hymn *Dóchas Linn Naomh Pádraig* is in fact the word 'dóchas' itself meaning 'hope'. Despite the many difficulties of our time we might take up that word 'dóchas' as a mantra particularly when we are stressed – so this year focus on dóchas.

## SAINT PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

### LÚIREACH PHÁDRAIG

*God in his creative energy or neart is seen as going out in six directions in texts such as St. Patrick's Breastplate. He surrounds the person on all sides, north, south, east and west, above and below. This formula corresponds to the traditional Chi Rho symbol.*

Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ within me,  
Christ below me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right hand,  
Christ on my left hand,  
Christ in my sleeping,  
Christ in my waking,  
Christ in the heart of all who think of me,  
Christ in the mouth of all who speak to me,  
Christ in every eye that looks at me,  
Christ in every ear that listens to me.

Críost liom,  
Críost romham,  
Críost i mo dhiaidh,  
Críost istigh ionam,  
Críost fúm,  
Críost ós mo chionn,  
Críost ar mo lámh dheas,  
Críost ar mo lámh chlé,  
Críost i mo luí dhom,  
Críost i mo sheasamh dom,  
Críost i gcroí gach duine atá ag cuimhneamh orm,  
Críost i mbéal gach duine a labhraíonn liom,  
Críost i ngach súil a fhéachann orm,  
Críost i ngach cluas a éisteann liom.

## AG CRÍOST AN SÍOL

Ag Críost an síol,  
Ag Críost an fomhar,  
In iothlainn Dé  
Go dtugtar sinn.

Ag Críost an mhuir,  
Ag Críost an t-iasc,  
I líonta Dé,  
Go gcastar sinn.

Ó fhás go haois,  
Ó aois go bás,  
Do dhá lámh, a Chríost,  
Anall tharainn.

Ó bhás go críoch,  
Ni críoch ach athfhás,  
I bParthas na nGrás  
Go rabhaimid.

## CHRIST'S IS THE SEED

Christ's is the seed,  
Christ's is the harvest,  
To the barn of Christ  
may we be brought.

Christ's is the sea,  
Christ's is the fish,  
In the nets of Christ  
may we be caught.

From growth to age,  
from age to death,  
your two arms, Christ,  
around about us.

**From death to the end,  
not end but re-growth,  
in the Heaven of graces  
may we be.**