



History & Geography

For history and geography, we've included a brief history on Ireland's first missionary, St. Patrick, as well as a history of the Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript in Latin, containing the four Gospels of the New Testament.

Learn about the Giant's Causeway for a Geography study, then read about the Irish Potato Famine. (These two studies are on the website and not included in the PDF.)

I have a Creator who knew all things, even before they were made - even me, his poor little child.

~ St. Patrick

History & Geography

Saint Patrick



Patrick was born in Roman Britain. Calpurnius, his father, was a deacon, his grandfather Potitus a priest, from what is now England, though some believe he may have been born in Wales or Scotland. As a youth, Patrick was not an active believer.

According to the Confession of Saint Patrick, his personal letter and memoir, at the age of sixteen he was captured by a group of Irish pirates. They took him to Ireland where he was enslaved and held captive for six years.

Patrick writes in the Confession that the time he spent in captivity was critical to his spiritual development. He explains that the Lord had mercy on his youth and ignorance, and afforded him the opportunity to be forgiven his sins and convert to Christianity.

While in captivity, he worked as a shepherd and strengthened his relationship with God through prayer, eventually leading him to convert to Christianity. It is said he prayed at least a hundred times a day and almost as often in the evening.

After six years of captivity he heard a voice telling him that he would soon go home, and then that his ship was ready. Fleeing his master, he travelled to a port, two hundred miles away, where he found a ship and with difficulty, persuaded the captain to take him. After returning home, Patrick continued to study Christianity and became a priest then a bishop.

Patrick had a vision a few years after returning home that led him to return to the country of his captivity:

I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: "The Voice of the Irish." As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea—and they cried out, as with one voice: "We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us."

And so he did. Leaving us a wonderful example of how much glory a single obedient person can bring to the Kingdom of God.