

ADAMNAN'S LAW
THE LAW OF THE INNOCENTS

NEWSFLASH



Stephen Eric Smyth

(Suggestion: begin with an 'evening news' - type jingle)

1 We interrupt this service to bring you an important newsflash.

2 This is 'News at 697AD', and I am N.....

We are receiving some breaking news from Ireland, from the 'Synod of Birr', where political and religious leaders from Ireland, Scotland and the lands of the Picts, are discussing some significant new international legislation.

We are going over to our correspondent, N... , for more details.

3 Yes, good morning, N... .

There has been a remarkable breakthrough here today in the quest to provide basic human rights for some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

After years of debate and wrangling, across Scotland and Ireland, this synod has accepted the proposals championed by Adamnan, the 9th Abbot of Iona, for an amazing new 'Law of the Innocents'.

2 A 'Law of the Innocents'? What does this mean exactly, N... ?

3 This means, N... , that from now on in any war or battle among our many nations and tribes, all the innocent people – mainly the women and children – may no longer just be slaughtered or taken as slaves by the winning side.

2 No longer just be slaughtered or taken as slaves! That's quite a change, N...

3 Yes, N... , and if anyone breaks this new law they will face severe penalties both in this world and in the next!

2 And the kings and chieftains have all agreed to this?

3 Yes, all the kings and chieftains of Ireland and of the land of the Scots and of the land of the Picts have actually agreed to this.

It is a huge achievement for Adamnan, or Eunan as he is sometimes called.

He says that the law is firmly rooted in the teaching of Jesus, the person who founded the Christian religion that Adamnan loves so dearly.

2 This Jesus and this Adamnan must be remarkable people, N...

3 Yes indeed, N... .

After hearing the synod's decision I spoke to one woman. She said:

4 Today, through Adamnan of Iona, Jesus has granted the lasting liberation of the women of these islands. It's a wonderful day for women and children everywhere.
See that Adamnan – he's a saint!

3 Yes, N... , Adamnan's Law – The Law of the Innocents. It is indeed a wonderful day for women and children everywhere.
This is N... for 'News at 697AD' at the 'Synod of Birr', Ireland.

2 Thank you, N....

Well, this is goodbye from us all at 'News at 697AD'.
We will now return you to your normal service.
Go in peace and may you safely enjoy the rest of your lives.

(Suggestion: end with an 'evening news-type' jingle)

