

# A Morning Prayer

St Patrick's Day  
2012



Christ be near at either hand. Christ behind, before me stand.  
Christ with me where'er I go. Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my heart and mind. Christ within my soul enshrined,  
Christ control my wayward heart. Christ abide and ne'er depart.

Christ my life and only way. Christ my lantern night and day.  
Christ be my unchanging friend. Guide and shepherd to the end.

Praise the Father, source of all love!  
Praise the Son, who reigns above!  
Praise Holy Spirit, comfort in need!  
Praise on our lips, in our hearts and our deeds!



## A short Reading from **The Confession of St Patrick**

I saw in a vision of the night a man who seemed to be coming from Ireland, carrying many letters. His name was Victorinus. He gave one of them to me and I read the opening lines, which were, 'The voice of the Irish.' While I was reading I thought I heard the voices of the people who live by the wood of Voclut, which is by the western sea. They cried as with one voice, 'We ask you, son, to come and walk once more among us.' I was heart-broken at this, and could read no further, and so I woke up. Years later, thanks be to God, the Lord granted them what they had asked.

So it came about that Ireland, a land filled with people who never had the knowledge of God, but worshipped idols and other foul objects, now had a people of the Lord who are called the children of God.

O God, come to our aid: O Lord, make haste to help us.  
Glory to the Father,  
glory to the Son,  
Glory to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen.

Let us pray

Father of us all,  
by whose providence the blessed Patrick  
was chosen to be the apostle of the Irish  
so that they might become children of the Most High God,  
grant that with his prayers,  
we may all be bearers of the Good News  
and living witnesses in all the churches  
to your love for the whole human family  
and your care for all of creation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **The Benedictus: verse 1**

Blest be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who came to us; and brought us back from sin.  
God raised for us a Saviour who is mighty,  
his Saviour-Son from David's house and line.  
God promised this through holy men and women  
who spoke for him down through the mists of time.

### **Intercessions**

Christ the good shepherd laid down his life for his sheep.  
Let us praise him with grateful hearts as we pray:

Christ our Lord, in the holy pastors you reveal your love for us.  
May we never be deprived of the care you show through them:  
**Glory be to God who has shown us the light.**

Through your sacred ministers you are present in our midst as the  
shepherd of our souls.  
Never cease to guide us through their teaching and  
encouragement.  
**Glory be to God who has shown us the light.**

In the saints who lead your people you manifest your power of  
healing souls and bodies;  
remain always with us to renew our lives in holiness.  
**Glory be to God who has shown us the light.**

By the example of the saints you instruct your faithful in the ways  
of wisdom and love;  
through our pastors help us to grow to the full stature of perfection.  
**Glory be to God who has shown us the light.**

I arise today  
In the might of heaven  
Brightness of sun,  
whiteness of snow  
Splendour of fire,  
speed of lightning

Swiftness of wind,  
depth of sea  
Stability of earth,  
firmness of rock.  
God's legions to save me  
To protect me  
From snares of the demons  
From evil enticements  
From failings of nature  
From one man or many  
That seek to destroy me  
Nearby or afar.

May the God of hope fill us with every joy in believing.  
**Amen**

May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts.  
**Amen**

May the Holy Spirit enrich us with the great gifts  
Now and for ever.  
**Amen.**



In some parts of the world no celebration of St Patrick's Day would be complete without the traditional hymn:

Sr Agnes

## Hail, Glorious St Patrick

traditional

6 Hail, glo - rious St Pa - trick, dear saint of our isle, on  
Hail glo - rious St Pa - trick, thy words were once strong a -

10 us thy poor child - ren and be - stow a sweet smile; and  
gainst Sat - an's wilesd and an in - fi - del throng; not

14 now thou art high might in the man - sions a - bove, on  
less is thy might where in heav - en thou art; O

18 Er - in's green val - leys in look down in thy love. On  
come to our aid, in our bat - tle take part. O

22 Er - in's green val - leys, on Er - in's green val - leys, on  
come to our aid, O come to our aid, O

Er - in's green val - leys in look down in thy love.  
come to our aid, in our bat - tle take part.

In the war against sin, in the fight for the faith,  
dear saint, may thy children resist unto death;  
may their strength be in meekness, in penance, in prayer,  
their banner the Cross which they glory to bear.

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