



## **ST PATRICK'S DAY BLESSINGS**

**Patrick-  
'a man  
full of tears  
and fears'  
(Confessio)**

### **REFLECTION**

- From Patrick's Confessio we learn of 'a man full of tears and fears' whom God in his graciousness often freed from captivity'
- born a Romano-Briton to a wealthy family of the established Empire, his father a State official and a deacon in the church.
- accustomed to a life of cultured ease and youthful irresponsibility until the catastrophic event of his kidnap by ruthless traders.
- His Diary writings [ 'Confessions' ] reveal a profound religious conversion during his years in captivity.  
**Prayer poured from him** as he felt himself surrounded by God's embracing Presence.

He learnt the **humility to forgive** his captors.

He was **ever- thankful to God** for protecting him in all his vicissitudes.

The mystic experiences shaped by those years of intense suffering continued to kindle in Patrick the missionary flame. Years after his escape back to England he was to heed the dream call back to walk amongst the Irish, once again, telling of the marvels his Christian God had done for him. As Bishop and Shepherd he led this pagan flock along a Christian way. Transcending pressures from culture, language and the established Church of Rome, Patrick opened a glorious Chapter of Faith in Irish history; a story which eventually reached to the ends of the earth.

### **MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER**

**Leader:** With the ancient Irish people we call to Patrick:

'Holy boy, we are begging you to come and walk among us once again'

**Hymn:**

The Deer's Cry

[Tara CD 3032 :[The Pilgrim](#), Shaun Davey]

### **Psalm 25**

**Antiphon:** My eyes are always on Yahweh for he releases my feet from the net,

### **Intercessions**

**Leader:** On the mountains and forests of Ireland, in sleet and snow, Patrick had come to know the warm shelter of an- ever loving God. Confident that the same God is ever present with us we pray:

**Awaken us to your embracing love, o God.**

For Patricks' abiding sense of God in rock and sea and  
woodland, from dawn to dusk and through the darkest hours

We pray ...

For Patrick's humble and forgiving heart towards all who  
overpower and wound the human spirit ..

We pray...

For Patrick's daily thankfulness before all life's wonders and  
woes

We pray...

For Patrick's ceaseless telling of 'the marvels which his God  
had done'

We pray..

Over all who find themselves alone and vulnerable against  
forces human and cosmic we pray

Patrick's Lorica [ his Breastplate Prayer]



For my shield this day I call  
Heaven's might,  
Sun's brightness  
Fire's heat  
Lightning's swiftness  
Ocean's depth,  
Earth' s solidity  
Rock's immobility.



## A CLOSING PATRICK'S DAY BLESSING

*Here's to ye now .....*

*May Christ and his Saints stand between ye and all  
harm.....*

*and ye're troubles be as few and far between as my  
grandmother's teeth' !*

