

BLURB OF THE DAY FROM REV. JUDIE+

MARCH 17TH, 2020

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Let's all remember this brave Priest who changed the course of history in Ireland! Although Kelly's Pub is closed, and there will be no green beer on tap, you can make your own with just a bottle and a tad of green food colouring (not so healthy) or adding a smashed avocado to the beer and producing an interesting smoothie (not so tasty). I'm going to be singing "When Irish eyes are smiling" to my sister Chris in Winnipeg...we've phoned each other for years to accomplish this choral masterpiece. Why not call a friend and give it a try too?

St. Patrick was working in the early 400's, bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the northern kingdoms. For his efforts, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery. Six years later, he escaped and fled back to Britain, where he was in time ordained to the priesthood. Look at that, everyone....Patrick began as a lay missionary....hooray for laity.

After his ordination, he had a vision that he would return again to the place of his brutal captivity, and in 438 that vision came true. He became a Bishop with charge over the mission to the Irish. His work flourished....monasticism was encouraged, the poor were served, the great story about him driving the snakes out of Ireland was memorialized. And just a few generations after his death, the great heroes of Irish children were no longer Warriors, but rather monks and nuns.

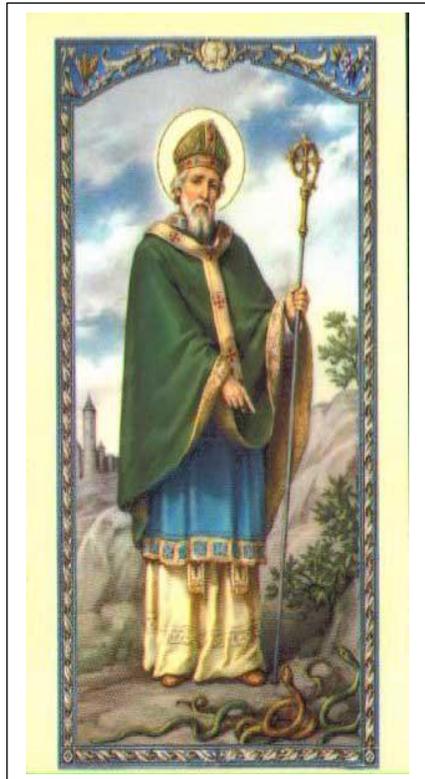
Patrick was one who suffered much, and rejoiced much. He was brave, courageous and patient and passed those characteristics on to others. He is one great example of the following Scripture:

Romans 5:3-4 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³And not only that, but we^[a] also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God's

love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

You and I can be great examples of that as well. With God's help, and the prayerful love and support of each other, we can indeed live in hope. Amen.



May the Road Rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His hand!