

## The Priestly Society of Saint Pius X in Ireland

### Saint Pius X House

12 Tivoli Terrace South  
**Dún Laoghaire**, County Dublin  
 Telephone: (01) 284 2206  
 Very Rev. Ramón Anglés, Superior  
 Rev. Régis Babinet

### Saint John's Presbytery

1 Upper Mounttown Road  
**Dún Laoghaire**, Co. Dublin  
 Telephone: (01) 280 9407  
 Rev. Paul Biéer

### Corpus Christi Church

Connaught Gardens  
**Athlone**, Co. Roscommon  
 Telephone: (090) 649 2439  
 Rev. Fabrice Loschi, Prior  
 Rev. David Nichols  
 Rev. Br. Gerard

### CONTACT

### Saint Pius V Chapel

78 Andersonstown Road  
**Belfast**, Co. Antrim

Dún Laoghaire or  
 Mr. McKeown (028) 9445 3654

### Our Lady of the Rosary Church

Shanakiel Road  
 Sunday's Well, Co. **Cork**

Dún Laoghaire or  
 Mr. O'Connor (021) 437 1196

### Our Lady of Knock and St Patrick Chapel

Unit 5 Richbrook Business Park,  
 Mill Rd, Bessbrook, **Newry**, Co. Down

Dún Laoghaire or  
 Mr. McArdle (028) 3082 5730

### Saint Joseph's Mass Centre

**Tralee**, Co. Kerry

Dún Laoghaire or  
 Mrs. Dennehy (068) 43123

### Cashel Mass Centre

Co. Tipperary

Dún Laoghaire or  
 Mr. Walsh (062) 61028

Website : [www.ireland.sspx.net](http://www.ireland.sspx.net)

# St John's Bulletin

## The Society of St Pius X in Ireland



In This Issue:

- Spirituality of Children
- Devotion for Lent
- Life of St Finian the Leper
- The Breastplate of St Patrick
- Plus all the activities and devotions  
in our priories and churches

**March 2010**  
**Month of Saint Joseph**

## Devotions & Activities at St John's

**Rosary** daily at 6 pm; Saturday and Sunday at 10.30 am  
**Every Sunday:** Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 10.30 am  
**Every Thursday:** Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Miraculous Medal Novena after the 6.30 pm Mass (except First Thursday)  
**First Thursday: Apostolate of Prayer for Priests.** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 11 am Mass, adoration until 6.30 pm Mass.  
**First Friday:** Benediction after the 6.30 pm Mass  
**First Saturday:** Benediction and Rosary after 11 am Mass  
**Confessions:** 10.30 am on Saturdays and Sundays, and after 11am Sunday Mass  
**Missa Cantata:** Fourth Sunday of the month  
**Doctrinal Conference for Adults:** First and Third Tuesdays at 7.30 pm  
**Catechism for children:** Every Sunday between Masses  
**Catechism for teenagers:** Second Saturday of each month at 11.45 am  
**St John's Schola and Choir:** See Schedule on church's notice board

## Devotions & Activities in Athlone

**Rosary** daily at 6.30 pm  
**First Friday:** Holy Hour at 6.30 pm  
**First Saturday:** Benediction and Rosary at 10.25 am  
**Confessions:** 10.30 am on Saturdays and Sundays  
**Missa Cantata:** First and Third Sundays of the month

## Devotions & Activities in Cork

**Confessions:** Half an hour before every Mass and after Mass when announced  
**Conference for Children and Teenagers:** Second Sunday after Mass  
**Missa Cantata:** Third Sunday  
**Fourth Sunday:** Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass

## SSPX Groups and Pious Associations in Ireland

**Eucharistic Crusade:** Contact Fr. Biérer  
**Archconfraternity of St Stephen for Altar Boys:** Contact Fr. Anglés  
**Youth Group:** Contact Fr. Loschi  
**Third Order of the SSPX:** Contact Fr. Anglés  
**St Philomena's Rosary Association:** Contact Kay Cronin

### Sunday 2nd Collection

1st : For the Seminaries of the SSPX  
 2nd : For Insurances (buildings, car, health)  
 3rd : For Utilities (heating, electricity, petrol, phone)  
 4th : Building Fund (renovations of churches & priories)  
 5th : For the Missions of the SSPX

### Mass Stipends

1 Mass intention: 16 € / £ 15  
 Novena of Masses: 160 € / £ 150  
 Gregorian: 640 € / £ 600

## OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH - CORK

**Palm Sunday:**  
 Blessing and distribution of the Palms at 11 am

**Easter Sunday:**  
 Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at 11 am

## OUR LADY OF KNOCK AND ST PATRICK CHAPEL NEWRY

**Palm Sunday:**  
 Blessing and distribution of the Palms at 8.30 am

**Easter Sunday:**  
 Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at 8.30 am

## SAINT PIUS V CHAPEL - BELFAST

**Palm Sunday:**  
 Distribution of the Palms before 11 am Mass

**Easter Sunday:** Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at 11 am

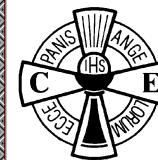
### The Miraculous Novena of Grace Prayer to Saint Francis Xavier

March 4<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>



**M**ost amiable and most loving Saint Francis Xavier, in union with thee I reverently adore the Divine Majesty. I rejoice exceedingly on account of the marvelous gifts which God bestowed upon thee. I thank God for the special graces He gave thee during thy life on earth and for the great glory that came to thee after thy death. I implore thee to obtain for me, through thy powerful intercession, the greatest of all blessings, that of living and dying in the state of grace. I also beg of thee to secure for me the special favour I ask in this novena. *(Here you may mention the grace, spiritual or temporal, that you wish to obtain.)* In asking this favour, I am fully resigned to the Divine Will. I pray and desire only to obtain that which is most conducive to the greater glory of God and the greater good of my soul.

**V.** Pray for us, Saint Francis Xavier.  
**R.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.  
 Let us pray:  
 O God, Who didst vouchsafe, by the preaching and miracles of Saint Francis Xavier, to join unto Thy Church the nations of the Indies, grant, we beseech Thee, that we who reverence his glorious merits may also imitate his example. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



## Intention of the Eucharistic Crusade for the month of March 2010

### For the Poor and the Destitute

#### NOVEMBER 2009 RESULTS

The Intention was for final perseverance for the dying

Treasure Sheets returned	Morning Offering	Masses	Communions		Sacrifices	Decades of the Rosary	Visits to Blessed Sacrament	15 mins of meditation	Good Example
			Sac.	Spirit.					
34	942	276	263	670	1504	4952	81	107	539

## Holy Week

### THE GREAT AND HOLY WEEK OF THE PASSION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS-CHRIST March 28<sup>th</sup> - April 4<sup>th</sup> 2010

#### SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH - DUN LAOGHAIRE

Palm Sunday: Low Mass at 9 am  
Blessing and distribution of the Palms at 11 am

Monday to Wednesday in Holy Week :  
Parish Mission: Rosary and Confessions at 6 pm, Holy Mass at 6.30 pm, Conference after Mass

Holy Thursday: Confessions at 6 pm  
Mass in Coena Domini at 6.30 pm, Adoration until midnight

Good Friday: Confessions at 2.30 pm and throughout ceremonies  
Stations of the Cross at 3 pm  
Good Friday Liturgy at 3.30 pm

Easter Vigil: Confessions at 5 pm and throughout ceremonies  
Easter vigil at 6 pm

Easter Sunday: Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at 9 am  
Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at 11 am

#### CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH - ATHLONE

Palm Sunday: Blessing and distribution of the Palms at 11 am

Holy Thursday: Confessions at 6 pm  
Mass in Coena Domini at 6.30 pm, Adoration until midnight

Good Friday: Confessions at 2.30 pm and throughout ceremonies  
Stations of the Cross at 3 pm  
Good Friday Liturgy at 3.30 pm

Easter Vigil: Confessions at 5 pm  
Easter vigil at 6 pm

Easter Sunday: Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at 11 am

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

♦ **ROSARY CRUSADE** : Due this month!

12 Million Rosaries for the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please send as soon as possible your numbers. Write them down and give them to your priest or send them to Father Anglés.

♦ **CHOIR PRACTICES** at St John's in Dun Laoghaire on Saturday March 13th, March 20th and March 28th. All are welcome to come and join, especially for the Holy Week Ceremonies. "To sing well is to pray twice!"

♦ **EUCCHARISTIC CRUSADE LENTEN RECOLLECTION** : Holy Mass at 11 am followed by Benediction. Lunch (BYO) in the Parish Hall. Conference and Stations of the Cross. The spiritual exercises will finish around 2.30 pm. This recollection is for all crusaders, children and teenagers from around Ireland.

♦ **EUCCHARISTIC CRUSADE CAMPS** : The dates for the Summer Camps of the Eucharistic Crusade this year will be for the girls : July 16th to 25th and for the boys : July 25th to 31st. The location of the camps is unchanged, they will take place in Sandville House, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan. Contact Fr Biéer.

♦ **EASTER COMMUNION TIME** : From Ash Wednesday to Trinity Sunday.

♦ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** every Friday of Lent at 6 pm at St John's and Corpus Christi Church.

♦ **RETRATS IN BRISTOL IN 2010:** Please phone St Saviour's House : +44 117 977 5863  
Mar. 8th - 13th: Women's Ignatian Retreat/May 6th - 8th: Marian Recollection for Women  
June 21th - 26th: Men's Ignatian Retreat / Aug. 16th - 21st Women's Ignatian Retreat  
Sept. 16th - 18th: Recollection for Men on the Four Last Things  
Oct. 4th - 9th: Women's Ignatian Retreat / Nov. 8th - 13th: Men's Ignatian Retreat

## ALL-DAY ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament



St John's Church in Dun Laoghaire  
Corpus Christi Church in Athlone  
**Every First Thursday**

Offered especially this year for the Priesthood  
in order to gain the indulgences

Starting after 11 am Mass until 6.30 pm Mass

The SSPX intentions are:

- The Holy Church
- The Holy Father and the Bishops
- The Priests and Seminarians
- Priestly & Religious Vocations

## Education

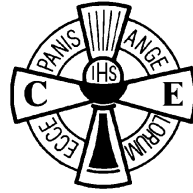
### The Role of the Eucharistic Crusade in the Spirituality of Children and Teenagers

If, as an ancient writer once put, the virtue of children reflects an honour on their parents, one would think that parents would take more care in the religious and spiritual education of their children. Alas! The modern world takes its toll on the spiritual realm, and the practice as well as the knowledge of the Faith is greatly decreasing in our society. Parents have always had the duty of keeping an eye on the spiritual well-being of their offsprings. Today it is more difficult than ever due to the circumstances of the world we live in. However there are certain precautions to be taken that could avoid many a disaster in families.

### The Eucharistic Crusade is to form an elite among children and teenagers

At the beginning of last century, the great and holy Pope, St Pius X instituted an organisation for the youth. Its purpose was to help the boys and girls of Catholic families to keep up with the Faith in a world that was changing very fast. St Pius X died of sadness on the eve of the First World War, knowing that it would be an immense drama for Europe, affecting mainly families, for they would be the ones who would suffer the most. Our Holy Patron knew also that the Free-Masonic world-wide organisation was also at work to eradicate the last Catholic monarchies of Europe. In this sad state of

affairs, it was essential to give the youth the opportunity to grow up as Catholic and get a chance to go to Heaven. Thus was founded the Eucharistic Crusade, who was to form an elite among the children and teenagers, so that they become good, devout and faithful young men and women. It has been restored in the Society of St Pius X, after the cataclysm of Vatican II, and is now active in all the countries of the world where the SSPX has priories and chapels.



In Ireland is published *The Irish Crusader*, a monthly magazine that gives the intention for which the children of the Eucharistic Crusade pray, on the recommendation of Bishop Fellay, the Superior of the SSPX. This bulletin is also a guide in their spiritual life. Over 100 children and teenagers in Ireland benefit from this publication and many more should also profit from it, as a tool for instruction and education. Modern technology is taking the place of God and the power of the media and internet over the minds of children today is absolutely terrifying. Thus good catholic parents must watch over their family and provide for them what is necessary for the good of their souls.

### Prayer

First of all, **prayer** is the basic duty of all Christians. **Vocations** come from good homes where prayers are said in common every night, especially the Rosary. "A family that prays together stays together." And how are the children going to learn their prayers and love them if not at home, under the guidance and with the good example of their parents?

Then parents must see to it that their children learn and know their **catechism**, not just to "pass" for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, but that they grasp the

the Earth with its starkness;  
All these I place, by God's Almighty help and grace;  
Between myself and the powers of darkness.

4. At Tara today, May God be my stay!  
May the strength of God now nerve me!

May the power of God preserve me!  
May God the Almighty be near me!  
May God the Almighty espy me!  
May God the Almighty hear me!

May God give me eloquent speech.  
May the arm of God protect me!  
May the wisdom of God protect me!  
May God give me power to teach and to preach!

May the shield of God defend me!  
May the host of God attend me!

And ward me; and guard me; Against the wiles of demons and devils;  
Against the temptations of vice and evils;  
Against the bad passions and wrathful will;  
Of the reckless mind and the wicked heart;  
Against every man that designs me ill;  
Whether leagued with others, or plotting apart.

5. In this hour of hours, I place all those powers;  
Between myself and every foe;

Who threatens my body and soul; with danger or dole;  
To protect me against the evils that flow;

From lying soothsayers' incantations;  
From the gloomy laws of Gentile nations;

From heresy's hateful innovations;  
From idolatry's rites and invocations.  
By these my defenders, My guards against every ban – And spells of

smiths, and druids, and women;  
In fine, against every knowledge that renders;

The light Heaven sends us, dim in The spirit and soul of man!  
May Christ; I pray; protect me today;  
Against poison and fire;  
Against drowning and wounding; That so in His grace abounding; I may earn the preacher's hire.

Christ, as a light; Illumine and guide me;  
Christ, as a shield; o'ershadow and cover me;

Christ be under me; Christ be over me;  
Christ be beside me; On left hand and right;

Christ be before me; behind me; about me;  
Christ, this day, be within and without me!

6 Christ, the lowly and meek;  
Christ, the all-powerful, be; In the heart of each to whom I speak;  
In the mouth of each that speaks to me –  
In all who draw near me; or see me; or hear me.

7. At Tara today, in this awful hour;  
I call on the Holy Trinity;

Glory to Him who reigneth in power;  
The God of the elements; Father and Son;

And Paraclete Spirit, which Three are the One;  
The everlasting Divinity.

### Refrain:

Salvation dwells with the Lord; With Christ the Omnipotent Word;  
From generation to generation; Grant us, O Lord, thy grace and salvation.  
Domini est salus, Domini est salus,  
Christi est salus, salus tua, Domine, sit semper nobiscum. Amen.

## ST PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

The Deer's Cry, in the form of a poem

There is a delightful legend concerning St Patrick when he and his disciples which included a youth, the future St Benignus who would become his psalm-singer in charge of music, when all were on their way to Tara to meet the High King Laoghaire for the first time, and Benignus trailed behind the group. The King had been warned by his Druids of their approach and he sent his soldiers to prevent them coming. St Patrick blessed his group and they are said to have chanted the following hymn as a shield and protection on the journey from Slane on Easter Sunday morning. A cloak of mist or darkness fell over them, so that none was visible. Thus, the ambushing soldiers saw no missionaries but heard what they thought were the cries of deer, and saw only a herd of deer and a fawn following them with a bundle on its back. That was St Patrick, his companions all chanting and St Benignus carrying his books on his back. Hence the second name for the Breastplate – the Deer's Cry. It is said that St Patrick wrote it in Gaelic - English had not then existed – and there are a number of translations.

At Tara today, in this awful hour; I call on the Holy Trinity! Glory to Him who reigneth in power, the God of the elements, Father and Son And Paraclete Spirit, which Three are the One, The everlasting Divinity.

1. At Tara today, I call on the Lord; On Christ the Omnipotent Word; Who came to redeem from death and sin, our fallen race; And I put and I place, the virtue that lieth in; His Incarnation lowly, His Baptism pure and holy; His life of toil and tears, and affliction; His dolorous death, - His Crucifixion; His burial, sacred, and sad, and lone; His Resurrection to life again; His glori-



ous Ascension to Heaven's high throne; And, lastly, His future dread, and terrible coming to judge all men; Both the living and the dead....

2. At Tara today, I put and I place; The virtue that dwells in the Seraphim's love; And the virtue and grace, that are in obedience; Of all the Archangels and Angels above; And in the hope of the Resurrection; To everlasting reward and election; And in the prayers of the fathers of old; And in the truths the Prophets foretold; And in the Apostles' manifold preaching; And in the confessors' faith and teaching, And in the purity ever dwelling; Within the Immaculate Virgin's breast; And in the actions bright and excelling; Of all good men, the just and the best.

3. At Tara today, in this fateful hour; I place all Heaven with its power; And the sun with its brightness; And the snow with its whiteness; And the fire with all the strength it hath; And lightning with its rapid wrath; And the winds with their swiftness along their path; And the sea with its deepness; And the rocks with their steepness; And

basic principles of the Catholic Faith that will guide them throughout their lives. It is only fair that the parents hand down what they have received, as Archbishop Lefebvre did. So children should, as much as possible, participate in the Religious Instruction classes that are available to them. Parents will also do their best to instill in their children the **devotion to Our Lady**. She is their heavenly Mother who will take them by the hand on the way to Heaven.

**Serving Mass** also promotes a good spirituality and encourages vocations among boys because, by being close to the Altar, they understand better the holy actions that are performed by the priest.

### Sacrifice

Most importantly, the parents have to be aware of the dangers of what **modern technology** can bring in their houses. A home is a closed environment in which the children must grow up protected from the evil influences of the world. The family is the basic cell of the society and the most indivisible one. But today, the family is being attacked, and many enemies have walked into people's homes without them even realising it fully, thus creating havoc! And there is the **great danger of computer games and social networks, in general of the internet**, in spite of all the good it seems to bring. Let us be realistic about it! If you don't know whom your children are talking to on their mobile phones or writing to on any chat or email carrier, how can you be so sure that they are not confronted to things that will put their souls in danger? If you let the world into your house through the cable or even wirelessly, you might as well leave your children alone in the streets of a big city, preferably at night, and hope they manage without too much damage! Parents have the obligation to protect their homes, and keep out of them anyone or anything that could corrupt the innocence of their children, bad company, newspapers, magazines,

books, television, and **watch carefully the use of the modern means of communication**. The impact of technology on the minds of the youth today is certainly the cause of the fall in the number of vocations. While Catholics always considered a vocation in a family as a blessing, today we are faced with a lack of the **spirit of sacrifice** in the youth, that is being replaced by the pursuit of pleasure and the absorption in games and computer-orientated activities. Sadly, boys and girls are not taught generosity and selflessness any longer. How will they think of offering and giving their lives to God?

### Communion

The two pillars of the spiritual life are **confession and communion**. If children are taught to love God when they are small, they will continue, whatever hardships they have to go through. To look after the souls of children is a great mission given to parents by God. May they find in these two sacraments the internal strength they need to accomplish their duties, and the incentive to bring their children up as good Catholics.

### Apostolate

The parents will find in the **Eucharistic Crusade** a great help. May they encourage their children to fill out their Treasure sheet! It is for children and parents an encouragement to persevere, to see that they are not alone to give up the world, but are part of a Crusade, of the Church, in the Communion of Saints. Let us meditate on those words of Archbishop Lefebvre on his Golden Priestly Jubilee in Paris in 1979 :

« We must make a *Crusade founded on the sacrifice of the Mass, to re-create Christendom as the Church wants it, on the same principles, the same Mass, the same sacraments, the same catechism, the same Holy Scripture. A crusade of young people, of Catholic families, of heads of families, a crusade of priests.* »

## Devotion

### The co-operation of the faithful soul at the Holy Sacrifice. Five favours on which the Saint desired to meditate, when unable to assist at it.

*From the visions of St Gertrude*

On the Feast of St. Maurice, as the celebrant pronounced the secret words of consecration, St. Gertrude said to our Lord: "Lord, the mystery which Thou dost now operate is so tremendous and so great, that I scarcely dare to breathe or speak. It is enough for me to hide myself in the deepest valley of humility which I can find, expecting my share in the salvation which Thou dost there impart to Thine elect." Our Lord replied: "When a mother wishes to do some work with pearls and precious stones, she sometimes places her child in an elevated place to hold her thread or her pearls or to do her some other service. So I have placed you in an eminent position to dispose of the merits of this Mass. If you elevate your will even to desire willingly to suffer all kinds of labour and pain in order that this sacrifice, which is so salutary for all Christians, whether living or dead, may be fully accomplished in all its excellence, you will then have contributed, according to the extent of your ability, to the accomplishment of My work."



St. Gertrude, herald of Divine love, pray for us

Once, when the Saint was confined to bed, and unable to assist at Mass, at which she had hoped to have communicated, she said to God with a troubled spirit: "To what must I attribute my hindrance from assisting today at the Holy Mysteries, if not to Thy Divine Providence, my Beloved? And how shall I prepare myself to receive the Communion of Thy adorable Body and Blood, since my intention at Mass always seemed to me my best preparation?" "Since you attribute the cause to Me," replied our Lord, "to console you, I will make you hear the songs of joy with which Heaven resounds when I espouse a soul.

"Hear, then, from Me, that my Blood is your redemption. Meditate on those three and thirty years during which I laboured for you in exile, and sought only to ally Myself with you. Let this serve for the first part of Mass.

"Hear me telling you how I have dowered you with the riches of My Spirit and that even as I endured so much bodily labour during the three and thirty years in which I sought you, so also My soul feels an ineffable joy at the union and spiritual marriage which we have contracted. Let this be your consolation during the second part of Mass.

"Listen, then, to Me, while I tell you how you are replenished with My Divinity, which has the power to make you taste the purest delights and the most ravishing sweetness inwardly, whilst exteriorly you are suffering the severest pain. This will serve for the third part of Mass.

"Hear further, how you are sanctified by My love. Know that you have nothing of yourself and that

vans, whose name in Irish can mean 'one-eyed' and some of them do suffer from loss of sight in one eye. Some monks asked him to intercede on their behalf with a King so as to cancel a tribute – the saint sent his servant to the King, who refused. St Finian then threatened Divine retribution on him, a miracle was wrought and the King repented, asked forgiveness and cancelled the tribute.

St Finian built a Church and monastery on the island of Innisfallen in the Lower Lake of Killarney and he cured many people of all kinds of illness there. If anyone went to sleep in the Church, they were found outside on the bank of the Lake. It is not known how long he remained at Innisfallen. The famous Annals of Innisfallen were said to have been compiled on the island in later times.

Due to some local controversy, St Finian is said to have left Innisfallen and travelled through the country. Tradition says he first visited the Aran of St Enda, then Ardfinnan in Co Tipperary, Clonmore in Co Carlow and joined the monastery of St Colmcille at Swords, Co Dublin. Some say he met St Colmcille, but that is unlikely as it would cause chronological problems, more likely that he met some of St Colmcille's successors. Shortly afterwards, in the light of his virtues and sanctity he was elected Abbot at Swords. There again he healed the sick, dispersed alms and hospitality and performed all his duties to perfection. He took little rest or sleep and he spent some of the night in cold water singing the Psalms. He was renowned for his asceticism. He is said to have regularly visited Ireland's Eye for greater solitude and to visit the holy monks there, viz. Dichull, Munissa and Neslug (15<sup>th</sup> March). More miracles: one day, one of the brothers fell from the cliffs and was killed but our saint restored him to life; mice overran the island but he prayed and they disappeared; another time they had no fish to eat



and St Finian ordered them to cast the net and they took 30 salmon; his boat could sail against opposing winds if necessary; another time, the doors of his monastery were closed against him when he returned but the opened miraculously and he passed within. He

wrought many miracles in favour of the blind, mute, deaf, insane, cripple and other ills; when wine was lacking for Mass, he blessed water and it became wine; often, when he celebrated Mass, a globe of fire was seen over his head; a tree with bitter fruit was blessed and bore sweet fruit; another tree which was barren was blessed and bore fruit; a man killed in battle was restored to life, as was a young boy; a quarrel arose between two men, one of whom fled to St Finian for sanctuary – the other refused the saint's mediation and was made blind; once he left his Missal behind him and it was returned to him by an angel; he extinguished a fire by blessing it. Miracles continued also through his relics after his death.

St Finian is said to have died at Swords and to have been buried there. The year is uncertain but most hagiographers think it occurred between 674 and 693. In addition to Swords and Innisfallen, some writers claim that he was also Abbot at Ardfinnan, Co Tipperary and Clonmore, Co Carlow. He could certainly have had connections with those places and some of his relics could have been transferred to them. Others think these latter places refer to another St Finian.

In Ireland, St Finian's feast was celebrated with an Office and 9 Lessons. He is listed in many Calendars and is mentioned in the Martyrologies of Salisbury and of the Carthusians. He is celebrated in the 4 areas mentioned above as well as at Aghadoc, near Killarney where there was a Cathedral dedicated to him. A St Finian's Tower fell in Shi(ee)p St, Dublin about 1846. His festival was also celebrated in Scotland, and there are many Churches dedicated to him.

## Irish Saints

### St Finian Lobhar

*Bishop & Abbot, Swords, Co Dublin  
and Innisfallen, Co Kerry. 6/7 centuries.  
Feastday: 16<sup>th</sup> March.*

*The amount of reliable information about St Finian Lobhar that has come down to us from the remote period is quite meagre, and also quite unsatisfactory as regards dates and phases of his life. The places mentioned are sometimes unclear, as it were almost disguised by misspellings, or not being explicit. Our hagiographers have had to fall back on some conjecture in certain areas in collecting and collating the various accounts of his Life and Acts into a coherent and accurate picture. An ancient Life existed but does not appear from it appear in the Martyrology of Salisbury which tells us, among other things, that he was a Bishop and that he raised three people to life. He is written about by a number of hagiographers. Such fragments could also of course refer to different saints at different times and this is often a source of disagreement among scholars. However, this St Finian is treated by many of our foremost hagiographers; O'Hanlon, Colgan, Challoner, the 4 Masters and others. He was given the second name Lobhar, meaning 'the Leper' to distinguish him from other St Finians. However, in ancient Ireland 'Lobhar' was used to describe both leprosy and any other scrofula or ulcerous or suppurating skin condition such as from Tuberculosis. It appears that there were quite a few sufferers from these conditions in ancient Ireland as there were a number of hostels which specifically catered for them. One such was at what is now called Leopardstown in Co Dublin which gets its name from the Irish 'Baile na Lobhar' meaning 'Town of Lepers'. There were no leopards in ancient Ireland.*

**A**s regards his birth, some state that he was born in the Ely-O'Carroll territory, which today consists of an area about 10 miles by 16 centred on Roscrea and extending further into South-West Offaly than into Tipperary; all of which was in North Munster, called Thomond, in those days and even today almost all of it is in the Diocese of Killaloe, a relic

of that past. Others maintain he was born in the Fingal area of North Dublin and from the Leinster nobility. As regards lineage of course, both could be correct, as one could relate to the father and the other to his mother. Indeed this is likely as his main places of activity were at Innisfallen near Killarney and Swords in Dublin as in those days a saint's first foundation was usually in the home territory of his or her parents as very often he or she obtained the site from the chief or king of his or her own people.

St Finian was first educated by an old and holy man called Brendan who taught him letters and religion. He then went to Kerry, possibly to his mother's people, where he was further trained in religion by a Bishop Fathlad. He quickly advanced greatly in virtue and sanctity and soon received Holy Orders. It is said that he was afterwards consecrated Bishop and soon his holiness and miracles rendered him most renowned. He had frequent angelic visions and colloquies. A woman brought him her son who was blind, mute and a leper from birth. St Finian prayed and was told that if he wished the boy to be healed, that he would have to bear the leprosy himself for the rest of his life. This he accepted; the boy was healed and St Finian became covered with most painful sores all over his body which he joyfully and patiently accepted all life long. Later, a penitent asked to suffer such leprosy in atonement. St Finian told him it would be too much for him to bear but the penitent persisted and was given the penance. The penitent could not stand it and asked for relief of St Finian who obtained the return to his former state of health for the penitent. Further miracles include; a boy was on the point of death and he was restored to full health; a book he was reading fell into a deep lake and was lost – however it later floated to the surface and was completely undamaged. A servant looked into St Finian's cell at night and saw light shining from his left hand which enabled him to read and write; the saint was displeased and the servant lost the sight of one eye. This story may have some connection with the O'Sulli-

all which renders you agreeable to Me comes from Me. Occupy yourself with these thoughts during the fourth part of Mass.

"Lastly, hear that you have been united to Me in the sublimest manner. Know that as 'all power has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth,' I cannot be hindered from exalting you, as a king exalts his queen to his throne and consequently renders her an object of respect. Rejoice, then, in reflecting on these things and do not complain again that you have been deprived of hearing Mass."

### Lent with St Kevin

**D**uring the time of Lent, when our saint lived in the desert, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him, on three different nights. This Angel said : " O servant of Christ, that rock hanging over the cave in which you dwell, will soon fall upon it, wherefore speedily look out for some other place." St. Kevin replied : " This is a narrow place in which I dwell, but, I wish to remain in it, during the time of Lent, if it be pleasing to God." The Angel continued : "Truly, the hand of the All-powerful God shall sustain this rock for many days, lest it

should deprive thee of life." Saying these words, the Angel vanished. Holy Kevin then said within himself: "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, my God, here shall I remain, until Eastertide." When the holy evening of Easter came, the Angel again warned St. Kevin: "Depart immediately from this cave following me." Then, blessed Kevin followed the Angel across the Lake and with dry feet. As the Angel had intimated, the rock fell immediately afterwards on the cave, so soon as our saint had taken his departure.



### The Month of March sanctified

#### Month dedicated to St Joseph

Recite the Litany and the Prayer to St Joseph every day after Rosary  
Offer 1st Friday Communion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Offer 1st Saturday Communion in honour and reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
On the 4th starts the Novena of Grace to St Francis Xavier  
On the 8th starts the Novena of St Patrick  
On the 10th starts the Novena of St Joseph  
On the 16th starts the Novena of the Annunciation  
On the 25th starts the devotion of the 13 Tuesdays of St Anthony of Padua  
On the 25th starts the Novena of St Francis of Paula  
Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent

#### Suggested resolution for the month :

Recite often during Lent the Hail Mary of the sorrowful Mother:

**Hail Mary, full of sorrows, the Crucified is with thee: tearful art thou amongst women, and tearful is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of the Crucified, grant tears to us crucifiers of thy Son, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.** *Indulgence of 100 days each time*

## Liturgical calendar for March 2010

						St John's	Athlone	Cork	Belfast	Newry	Tralee	Cashel
Monday	1	Ferial, III class	<i>St David, Patron of Wales</i>	1		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Tuesday	2	Ferial, III class		2		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Wednesday	3	Ferial, III class		3		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Thursday	4	Ferial, Sts Casimir & Lucius, III class		4	<b>FIRST THURSDAY</b>	11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Friday	5	Ferial, III class	<i>St Kieran, Bishop of Ossory</i>	5	<b>FIRST FRIDAY</b>	11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Saturday	6	Ferial, Sts Perpetua and Felicity, III class		6	<b>FIRST SATURDAY</b>	11 am	11 am					
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Lent, I class</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>9 am &amp; 11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>8.30 am</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	
Monday	8	Ferial, St John of God, III class	<i>St Senan, Patron of Limerick</i>	8		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Tuesday	9	Ferial, St St Frances of Rome, III class		9		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Wednesday	10	Ferial, Forty Holy Martyrs, III class		10		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Thursday	11	Ferial, III class		11		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Friday	12	Ferial, St Gregory the Great, III class	<i>Abstinence</i>	12		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Saturday	13	Ferial, III class		13		11 am	11 am					
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent « Laetare », I class</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>9 am &amp; 11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>8.30 am</b>		<b>5 pm</b>
Monday	15	Ferial, III class		15		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Tuesday	16	Ferial, III class	<i>St Finian the Leper</i>	16		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Saint Patrick, Patron of Ireland, I class</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>Holyday of Obligation</b>	<b>9 am &amp; 11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>8.30 am</b>		
Thursday	18	Ferial, St Cyril of Jerusalem, III class		18		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
<b>Friday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, I class</b>		<b>19</b>		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Saturday	20	Ferial, III class	<i>St Frigidian of Lucca, St Cuthbert</i>	20		11 am	11 am					
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Passion Sunday, I class</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>9 am &amp; 11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>8.30 am</b>		
Monday	22	Ferial, III class		22		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Tuesday	23	Ferial, III class		23		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Wednesday	24	Ferial, St Gabriel the Archangel, III class	<i>St Macartan of Clogher</i>	24		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Annuntiation of Our Lady, I class</b>		<b>25</b>		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Friday	26	Ferial, The Seven Sorrows of Our Lady, III class	<i>Abstinence</i>	26		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Saturday	27	Ferial, St John Damascene, III class		27		11 am	11 am					
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Palm Sunday, I class</b>		<b>28</b>		<b>9 am &amp; 11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>8.30 am</b>		
Monday	29	Monday of Holy Week, I class		29		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Tuesday	30	Tuesday of Holy Week, I class		30		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
Wednesday	31	Wednesday of Holy Week, I class		31		11 am & 6.30 pm	11 am					
April	1	HOLY THURSDAY, I class		1		6.30 pm	6.30 pm					
Friday	2	GOOD FRIDAY, I class	<i>Fast &amp; abstinence</i>	2								
Saturday	3	HOLY SATURDAY, VIGIL OF EASTER, I class		3		6 pm	6 pm					
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, I class</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>9 am &amp; 11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>8.30 am</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	