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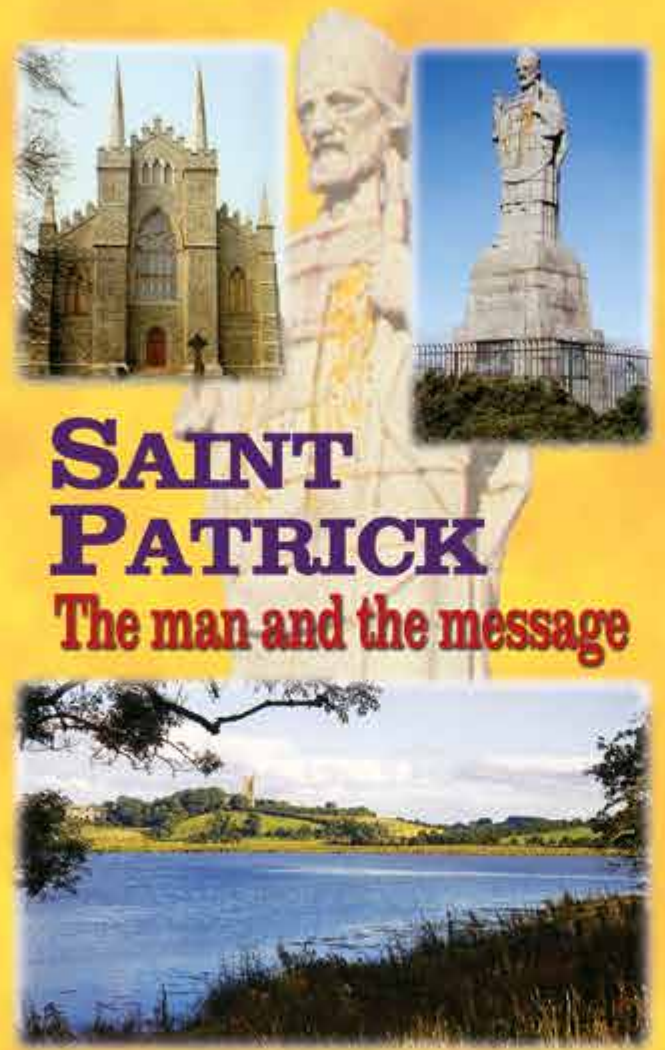
For more information or help, please contact:

To:

Please send me more details on finding a personal relationship with God

Name _____

Address _____



St. Patrick

There is absolutely no doubt that Patrick is the most famous figure in Irish history.

Patron Saint of Ireland, he is a man who belongs to the 5th century. Yet his influence within what was to become known as the 'land of saints and scholars', has been enormous.

Described as 'Ireland's favourite son', Patrick was originally brought as a slave from the west coast of mainland Britain. But it was many years later, as a pioneer evangelist, that through him God's message of love, hope and peace would be spread throughout this part of the world... a message, just as vital today as it was in yesteryear...



The man and the message

The message of **PEACE**

Forced to live and work as a shepherd on the slopes of Slemish mountain, Patrick's Christian faith deepened.

Unknown to him at the time, God was preparing him for all that lay ahead.



Today this is a place of peace and tranquillity... a symbol of the message which Patrick was to proclaim in the words of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who says...

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

Yet Patrick knew that to experience the true and lasting peace of God, we must first find peace WITH God. Again Christ Jesus points the way...

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No-one comes to the Father, except through me.

John 14:6

Of course, this is only part of the story...

The message of **HOPE**

Patrick escaped to Europe from where, 21 years later in 432 AD, he returned to Ireland in response to a vision... this time not as a slave, but as a Christian missionary.

He was not perfect... he never claimed to be. In fact he readily acknowledged his many faults, just as in the words of Scripture...

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us...

1 John 1:8

Yet it would be an awareness of the consequences of living and dying without ever coming to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ...

...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

...that would help fuel his determination to bring the message of hope to those facing a lost eternity.



The message of **SACRIFICE**

Patrick records that many who turned away from a belief in magic and a pagan tradition had to endure 'persecution and false accusations'. Yet those early Christians could reflect upon the far greater sacrifice made for them by Christ Jesus on the Cross of Calvary...

Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18

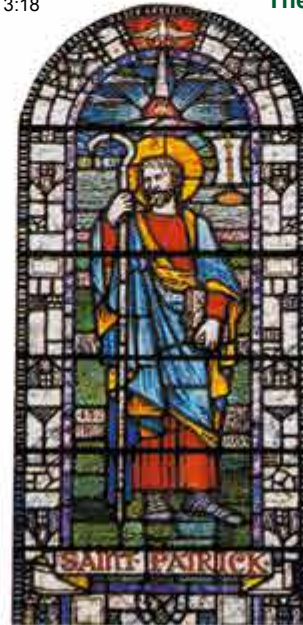
And although the pre-Christian beliefs and behaviour of those Celtic converts would have been different from ours, we're also called to turn away from all we know to be wrong... putting our future under the control of the risen Lord Jesus...

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.

1 Peter 2:24

..and of **NEW LIFE**

The message that Patrick brought was of God's loving mercy and of the possibility of a new beginning. And that's exactly what we can have on a personal basis in asking the Lord Jesus into our lives by His Spirit.



Not only do we receive forgiveness, but a completely new start...

...if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation; the old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

The message of **COMMITMENT**

There's no doubt that Patrick was a man with a mission.

To return to preach the gospel to pagan tribes in the land where he had been a slave must have been a most frightening prospect. Yet, though he speaks of '*insults and many persecutions*', he was also able to say, '*I am prepared to give my life without hesitation and most gladly in His name...*'.

Of course, we may not encounter the same opposition as Patrick, yet as we consider becoming a true follower of the Lord Jesus, He warns us of the cost to be faced...

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23

The message of **CHANGE**

St. Patrick's Church in Saul, Co Down, is a place of great historical interest. It was to this area that he first arrived and to which he often returned in the course of his ministry. This was also where he died in 461.

Yet central to Patrick's message was not a place, but a Person... the Lord Jesus Christ... and all that His life, death and resurrection represents...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

We can ignore the messenger but to reject the message would leave us facing deadly consequences...

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:18

St. Patrick may be a figure of history, but his message is as relevant today as when he first brought it to the shores of Ireland. And now, as he might well have said...

...it is time to seek the Lord...

Hosea 10:12

