

Children's Newsletter

St Mary's

John 12:20-30

5th Sunday
of Lent

Today's gospel is a bit difficult to understand, In one sentence Jesus is saying that it is time to show the glory of God. In the other He says that it is nearly time for him to die. The two things don't really go together until we realise that it is only by the death and resurrection of Jesus that God defeats evil and death.

News

- *Are you completing your Lenten calendars?*

St Patrick

Patron Saint of Ireland

Patrick was born around 385 and his parents were Romans. As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. During his captivity, he turned to God in prayer.

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he was reunited with his family.



He had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling out to him "We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more." He studied for many years to become a priest. Later, Patrick was ordained a bishop, and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in his writings called 'Confessions'. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461. His

feast day is March 17th.

Easter and Eggs

Everyone knows that you get eggs at Easter, usually the chocolate kind. But why eggs?

1000 years ago in Medieval Europe you were not allowed to eat eggs at all during Lent. That didn't stop chickens from laying them, of course, and they were often boiled and decorated and kept for treats at Easter.

Christians in the Middle East and Greece would paint their eggs red to remind them of the blood of Jesus. Hollow eggs were decorated with paintings of Jesus and Mary in Armenia.

Germans gave green eggs as gifts on Holy Thursday, and hung hollow eggs on trees. Austrians placed tiny plants around the egg and then boiled them. When the plants were removed, white patterns were created.

In Poland and Ukraine, eggs were often painted silver and gold. *Pysanky* (to design or write) eggs were created by carefully applying wax in patterns to an egg. The egg was then dyed, wax would be reapplied in spots to preserve that colour, and



St Joseph

We do not know much about Joseph who was the husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus.

We do know that he was a carpenter and that he probably taught Jesus to be a carpenter also. We know that one of his ancestors was King David and the angel who comes to him calls him a son of David.

We know he respected God and obeyed God when he was asked to take Mary as his wife and to look after the baby, Jesus.

He must have loved Jesus and been a caring father because when the angel came to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back.