

The Confession of Saint Patrick (Confessions of St. Patrick): With the Tripartite Life, and Epistle to the Soldiers of Coroticus (Aziloth Books)

By Saint Patrick

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The Confession of Saint Patrick (Confessions of St. Patrick): With the Tripartite Life, and Epistle to the Soldiers of Coroticus (Aziloth Books) By Saint Patrick

Born in Britain around 390 AD, St Patrick was taken as a slave to Ireland at the age of 16. Instigated by divine dreams, he escaped to his native land and became a priest until - obeying further dreams - he returned to Ireland as a bishop around 432, converting many and establishing the first Irish church at Armagh. He died in Down, around 460. 'The Confession of St Patrick' and 'Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus' are both written by the Saint himself. The 'Confession' was penned as a response to (unfounded) attacks on Patrick's integrity, while the 'Letter' derives from a slave-collecting attack undertaken by soldiers of the Scottish Christian King Coroticus, and reveals Patrick's incandescent rhetorical style. Both these unique documents open a window to the voice of the Saint, speaking more than 1500 years before our own time. 'The Tripartite Life' is late 9th century; it is the earliest example of Irish language hagiography, and is remarkable for the most famous poem about Patrick: the 'Lorica'. Its three parts are designed to be read consecutively over the three days of the Saint's festival.

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Editorial Review

About the Author
Saint Patrick (387–493) was a Romano-British and Christian missionary, who is the most generally recognized patron saint of Ireland or the Apostle of Ireland, although Brigid of Kildare and Colmcille are also formally patron saints. Two authentic letters from him survive, from which come the only generally accepted details of his life. When he was about 16, he was captured from his home by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to Ireland as an ordained bishop in the north and west of the island, but little is known about the places where he worked. By the seventh century, he had come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland. Most available details of his life are from later hagiographies from the seventh century onwards, and these are now not accepted without detailed criticism. Uncritical acceptance of the Annals of Ulster would imply that he lived from 340 to 440, and ministered in what is modern-day Northern Ireland from AD 428 onwards. The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty but, on a widespread interpretation, he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the second half of the fifth century. Saint Patrick's Day is observed on March 17, the date of his death. It is celebrated both inside and outside Ireland, as both a liturgical and non-liturgical holiday. In the dioceses of Ireland, it is both a solemnity and a holy day of obligation; outside Ireland, it can be a celebration of Ireland itself.

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