

Litany of the Saints of Ireland

Ireland has been long known as "The Island of saints and Scholars" and it is little wonder for the multitude of Canonised Saints attributed to this small island in the Atlantic, is truly amazing. There is a graveyard on the Aran Islands reputed to hold the graves of 120 Saints. The vast number of abbeys and monasteries located on Irish soil is also testament to that fact. Further abroad all over the continent of Europe are many, many more monasteries founded and maintained by the monks who left Ireland to avoid persecution and spread the word of Christianity. There are far too many to list but the following is but a sample of the great men of Erin who made a contribution for the benefit of all mankind.

St. Aengus Called Dengus and "the Culdee," a hermit and author of the Festology of the Saints of Ireland, The Felire. Ceile De was a name given to the hermits of the time. Aengus, born in Clonengh, Ireland, became a solitary monk on the banks of the river Nore.

St. Aidan Monastic founder, bishop, and miracle worker known for his kindness to animals. Known as Edan, Modoc, and Maedoc in some records, Aidan was born in Connaught, Ireland.

St. Aidan of Ferns Bishop and missionary, born in Inisbrefny, in County Cavan, circa 550, who is probably to be identified with Aidan. As a small boy he was held as a hostage by AedhAinmire, High King of Ireland.

St. Aileran Monk, biographer, and scholar-also called Sapiens the Wise. Aileran was one of the most distinguished professors at the school of Clonard in Ireland.

Apostles of Erin (Ireland) Twelve holy Irishmen of the sixth century who studied at Clonard in Neath at the school founded by St. Finian around 520. The twelve apostles of Erin were: St. Ciaran of Saighir, St. Ciaran of Clonmaenois, St. Brendan of Birr, St. Brendan of Clonfert, St. Columba of Tir-da-Glasi, St. Columba of Iona, St. Mobhi of Glasnevin, St. Ruadhan of Lorrha, St. Senan of Iniscathay, St. Ninnidh of Loch Erne, St. Lasserian mac Madfraech and St. Canice of Aghaboe.

St. Attracta Hermitess and co-worker with St. Patrick, also called Araght or Taraghta. She is traditionally listed as a daughter of a noble Irish family.

St. Becan Irish hermit in Cork. Becan lived in the time of St. Columba and was known for his sanctity.

St. Brandan died in 583. Born possibly in Tralee, Ireland, and educated by St. Ita and

ordained by Bishop Erc, he became a monk and founded a large monastery at Clonfert.

St. Brigid of Ireland Brigid was probably born at Faughart near Dundalk, Louth, Ireland. Her parents were baptized by St. Patrick, with whom she developed a close friendship.

St. Colman of Kilmacduagh Abbot-bishop, son of the Irish chieftain, Duac. He lived as a hermit at Arranmore and Burren, in County Clare, Ireland. Made a bishop against his will, he founded a monastery at Kilmacduagh, on land given by King Guaire of Connaught.

St. Columba St. Columba 521-597, Born probably in Donegal Ireland of royal descent he studied at Moville under St. Finnian then in Leinster at the monastery of Clonard under another St. Finnian. He was ordained before he was twenty-five and spent the next fifteen years preaching and setting up foundations at Derry, Durrow, and Kells

St. Fechin Fechin was probably born at Luighne (Leyney), Ireland. He was trained by St. Nathy, was founding Abbot of Fobhar, or Fore, in Westmeath, and died of the plague that devastated Ireland in the year 665.

St. Finan Disciple of St. Brendan and founder abbot of a monastery in Kinitty, Offaly, Ireland. A native of Munster, he is also known as Finnian, and is the patron of the monastery.

St. Finbar He was the son of an artisan and a lady of the Irish royal court. Born in Connaught, Ireland, and baptized Lochan, he was educated at Kilmacahil, Kilkenny, where the monks named him Fionnbharr (white head) because of his light hair

St. Finian of Clonard **The "Teacher of the Irish Saints." He was born in Myshall, in County Carlow, Ireland.**

St. Jarlath St. Jarlath, Bishop (Feast - June 6th) Jarlath is regarded as the founder and principle patron of the Archdiocese of Tuam in Galway, Ireland. He belonged to the Conmaicne family, perhaps the most important and powerful family in Galway during that period. Jarlath was trained by a holy man and ordained a priest along with his cousin. He then founded the monastery of Cluain Fois, just outside Tuam

St. Kevin He was ordained, and became a hermit at the Valley of the Two Lakes in Glendalough. After seven years there, he was persuaded to give up his solitary life. He went to Disert-Coemgen, where he founded a monastery for the disciples he attracted, and later moved to Glendalough.

St. Kieran sometimes listed as Kieran Saighir or Kevin the Elder. He was a native of Ossory, and after living for a time as a hermit, he is believed to have been consecrated a bishop by St. Patrick, taking his place as the first bishop of Ossory.

St. Lawrence O'Toole Augustinian archbishop of Dublin, Ireland. He was born at Leinster, the Son of Murtagh, chief of the Murrays, in Castledermot, Kildare. Taken hostage by King Dermot McMurogh of Leinster in a raid, Lawrence was surrendered to the bishop of Glendalough.

St. Loman Bishop of Trim, in Meath, Ireland, the son of Tigris, the sister of St. Patrick. He accompanied St. Patrick to Ireland and converted a local chieftain. Another tradition dates Loman to the seventh century, denying his relationship to St. Patrick.

St. Moling Bishop of Ferns, the successor of St. Aidan. Born in Wexford, Ireland, he is also listed as Dairchilla, Molignus, Moling, or Myllin. Moling was a monk at Glendalough and then founded an abbey at Achad Cainigh, which became Teghmollin, or Tech Molin, St. Mullins. He was buried there.

St. Murtagh 6th century Bishop of Killala, Ireland, appointed by St. Patrick. Also called Muredach, he was a member of the royal family of King Laoghaire. Murtagh reportedly met with St. Columba at Ballsodare, near Sligo, in 575. He died as a hermit on Inismurray island.

St. Oliver Plunkett Oliver Plunkett was born in Loughcrew in County Meath, Ireland on November 1, 1625. He was appointed Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland. Archbishop In 1679 he was arrested and falsely charged with treason. He was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn. His death was on July 1, 1681.

St. Palladius An early Irish missionary, the first bishop of Ireland, It seems that Palladius was then consecrated a bishop by the pope who, in about 430, sent Palladius to preach among the Irish. He landed near Wicklow and founded at least three churches in Leinster.

St. Patrick Apostle of Ireland, born in Wales some say in Scotland, in the year 387; died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, 17 March, 461.

St. Phelim Irish monk and disciple of St. Columba. He is honored as a patron saint of Kilmore.