

The Story of St. Patrick

St. Patrick, a Roman citizen of Britain, was captured by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland when he was only 16 years old.

The man who purchased Patrick was a local chieftain named Miliue of Antrim. He sent Patrick to tend flocks in the Valley of the Braid, where Patrick worked for nearly six years. He suffered from hunger and worked even in winter with almost no clothes. This forced him to look to the Lord, and soon he was praying “up to 100 prayers each day, and the same number during the night,” according to his final confession, in which he also said that the warmth of the Spirit of the Lord kept him from freezing.

The Lord delivered Patrick from slavery and he went back to his parents in England for a time. But in 432, he returned to Ireland. He had dreamed that a man named Victor brought messages from the people of Ireland, begging him to return, and so Patrick went back to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When he arrived, he defied the order of the King of Tara and lit a bonfire across from the hill where they were to begin the pagan festival of Ostara.

The king sent soldiers to arrest him, and Patrick and his followers escaped them by reciting the words of this prayer; the soldiers were said to have perceived them as a herd of deer. They could not put out the fire.

(Information from WorldHistory.org)

The Prayer of St. Patrick

ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

Also known as
Deer's Cry
or
Faed Fiada



**KINGS
HEARD**



**THE
DEER'S
CRY**

St Patrick's
Breastplate

**I
ARISE
TODAY
THROUGH
A MIGHTY
STRENGTH:**



*The invocation of the
Trinity.*

*Through a belief in
the **Threeness**,*

*Through a confession
of the **Oneness***

*Of the Creator of
creation.*

St Patrick's
Breastplate

ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.
By Whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

9

Christ with me
Christ before me
Christ behind me

Christ in me
Christ beneath me
Christ above me

Christ on my right
Christ on my left

Christ
when I lie down
Christ
when I sit down

Christ in the heart
of every man who
thinks of me

Christ in the mouth of
every man who
speaks of me

Christ in the eye
that sees me,

Christ in the ear
that hears me.

I ARISE TODAY
Through God's
strength to pilot me;

God's might to
uphold me

God's wisdom to
guide me

God's eye to look
before me

God's ear
to hear me,

God's word
to speak for me,

God's hand
to guard me,

God's way
lie before me

God's shield
to protect me

God's hosts
to save me

From snares
of the devil,

From temptations
of vices,

From everyone
who desires me ill,

Afar and anear,
Alone or in a
multitude.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

8

I bind unto myself today
The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same
The Three in One and One in Three.

1

Against the demon snares of sin,
The vice that gives temptation force,
The natural lusts that war within,
The hostile men that mar my course;
Or few or many, far or nigh,
In every place and in all hours,
Against their fierce hostility
I bind to me these holy powers.

6

I bind unto myself the power
Of the great love of cherubim;
The sweet 'Well done' in judgment hour,
The service of the seraphim,
Confessors' faith, Apostles' word,
The Patriarchs' prayers, the prophets' scrolls,
All good deeds done unto the Lord
And purity of virgin souls.

3

I bind this today to me forever
By power of faith, Christ's incarnation;
His baptism in Jordan river,
His death on Cross for my salvation;
His bursting from the spiced tomb,
His riding up the heavenly way,
His coming at the day of doom
I bind unto myself today.

2

I bind unto myself today
The virtues of the star-lit heaven,
The glorious sun's life-giving ray,
The whiteness of the moon at even,
The flashing of the lightning free,
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
The stable earth, the deep salt sea
Around the old eternal rocks.

4

Against all Satan's spells and wiles,
Against false words of heresy,
Against the knowledge that defiles,
Against the heart's idolatry,
Against the wizard's evil craft,
Against the death wound and the burning,
The choking wave, the poisoned shaft,
Protect me, Christ, till Thy returning.

7

I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, His shield to ward;
The word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.

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