

Children's School Assembly

St Patrick

Christ Is Always With Me



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

<p><u>Duration: 10 mins</u></p> <p>Preparation</p> <p>Prayer Ritual</p> <p>Scripture Focus: Part 1: Mark 16:15 "...Proclaim the Good News..."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set up a sacred prayer space in a central position, using green fabric and candle, a picture or icon of St Patrick and some shamrocks. Enthroned the lectionary in a prominent place in the sacred space. • <i>As the community gathers for assembly play Irish music to create the atmosphere.</i> • The Prayer Leader welcomes the community and says; Let us begin with the sign of the cross – the prayer to the Trinity. At this point the candle is lit in the prayer space. Today we honour St Patrick, a holy man of God – a special saint for the people of Ireland and all those of Irish descent. He proclaimed the Good News wherever he went. We are called to do the same as we hear in this reading from the Gospel of Mark. • Reader: Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation. The Gospel verse is proclaimed boldly and after a brief pause it is repeated. • After a brief pause the Prayer Leader then reflects with the community as follows. God was always part of St Patrick's everyday life. Patrick trusted that God was protecting him wherever he went. He experienced the presence
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of Christ encircling him... surrounding him... filling him...and this gave him great courage and strength to “Proclaim the good news to the whole creation”.

- The Prayer Leader then invites the children to be still. Begin playing some quiet, instrumental, Irish music here. (*See Secret Garden CD collections*) S/he invites them to allow themselves to experience Christ’s presence deep inside themselves...(Pause)... encircling every part of them.....(Pause)... surrounding them with love....(Pause)...Ask how it feels to know that Christ is always with them....(Pause)
- Following this quiet reflection the community sings together, ***The Light of My Life*** (Michael Manga – Sing Your Joy).
- The Prayer Leader then reflects with the community; **Like St Patrick we are missioned by our baptism to proclaim the Good News to the whole of creation. Sometimes we lose trust in ourselves and forget that God is always there, guiding us, giving us the words to speak. The prophet Jeremiah shares with us his experience of this.**

Choose two readers for the following text – one to be the voice of Jeremiah and the other the voice of God.

- **Reader 1:**
The Lord said to me:

Reader 2:

“I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations.”

Reader 1:

***I answered,
Sovereign Lord, I don’t know how to speak; I am too young. But the Lord said to me,***

Reader 2:

Do not say you are too young, but go to the people I send you to, and tell them everything I command you to say. Do not be afraid of them for I will be with you. I, the Lord, have spoken.

Reader 3:

Then the Lord reached out, touched my lips and said to me, Listen, I am giving you the words you must speak.

- After a brief pause the Prayer Leader then says;

Scripture Focus:

Part 2:

Jer 1:4-9

“...I chose you before I gave you life”

Conclusion

So let us take heart from the words of Jeremiah as we, pray to our God for the same faith and courage as St Patrick.

God of all people,
You chose St Patrick to proclaim
The Good news of your love to the world.
Help us to grow in faith and goodness,
So that we in our own lives,
Can share with others
The Good news of your love.
Amen.

- The community concludes this prayer by singing together the hymn, ***Tell the Good News*** (Andrew Chinn- Wherever You Go).

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