

Pray for Ireland on St Patrick's Day – March 17, 2011



80 million people in 200 countries celebrate St Patrick's Day on March 17 every year. The Irish national holiday is often associated with excess sugar (too many sweets for children and too much alcohol for adults). But behind the parades and parties is the story of one man whose life and message transformed a nation!

In the fifth century, Patrick was one of the earliest missionaries to bring the good news about Jesus to Ireland.

Please pray:

Please join us in praying for the nation of Ireland – that once again, as in the days of Patrick, people in Ireland will be made “a people of the Lord” and be called “sons of God.”

Pray for St Patrick's Day outreaches:

OM Ireland teams in the Midlands and the North West of Ireland will be working in partnership with local churches to reach out during St Patrick's Day parades and during the national holiday.

- ♣ Pray for the impact of carrying the giant cross through the Athlone parade and all the team members and local church members who take part.
- ♣ Pray for many opportunities to talk to people about Patrick's message about Jesus.
- ♣ Pray for unity among local believers in Athlone as they reach out with the Gospel.
- ♣ Pray for the outreach in Buncrana where local church members will join team members to hand out free copies of a CD including worship songs and the story of Patrick in his own words.

Extracts from Patrick's Confession (his 5th Century autobiography)

I am Patrick, a sinner, most unlearned, the least of all the faithful, and utterly despised by many. When I was about sixteen years of age... I did not know the true God and I was taken into captivity to Ireland with many thousands of people... And there the Lord opened the sense of my unbelief that I might at last remember my sins and then turn with all my heart to the Lord my God.

I testify in truth and in joy of heart before God ... that I never had any reason except the Gospel and its promises why I should ever return to the people from whom once before I barely escaped... Why was I given such a great gift to know God and to love Him?... In Ireland those who never had a knowledge of God, but until now always worshipped idols have now been made a people of the Lord, and are called sons of God. Read more...

Download a beautiful song and support OM Ireland



All proceeds from Irish folk/rock band MrJAG's single “Patrick's Breastplate” will go to OM Ireland. Download this beautiful Irish song NOW from [iTunes](#) and support the work of transforming lives and communities in Ireland.

Pray for workers

“Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the harvest field” – Ireland is a land of great need and even greater opportunity. OM Ireland is looking for people to join their enthusiastic team to fill vital roles.



Please pray:

- ♣ For key people to use their skills in vital roles such as Personnel, Communications, Hospitality and Maintenance.
- ♣ For people to join our one-year Immersion discipleship programme.
- ♣ For more Irish people to join our Impact Ireland summer outreach and other short term mission opportunities.

Pray for up-coming events

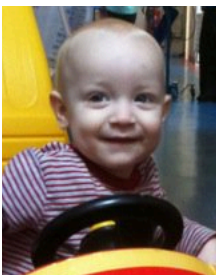
- ♣ **Golf Camp, Athlone, Co Westmeath:** Our 3rd Annual FCA Junior Golf Camp with Anders Forsbrand will be held this April 18-21. Young people will receive top-notch golf instruction along with important life lessons from the Bible.
- ♣ **Impact Ireland – OM summer outreach programme, 5-9 July, 2011:** Following training at Lacken House, teams will spread out across Ireland working alongside local churches to share the gospel.

Pray for provision

God has miraculously provided 50% of the cost of OM Ireland’s headquarters Lacken House in County Roscommon the heart of Ireland. This property has been a great blessing as a centre for short term mission teams to receive training before sharing the Gospel across Ireland.

- ♣ Pray for God to provide the remaining funds to pay off loans on the property
- ♣ Pray for the sale of the “St Patrick’s Breastplate” song by MrJAG (*see inset box*)

Pray for Andrew Mullins



Andrew is the 17-month-old son of OM Ireland director Mike Mullins and his wife Aster who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer (neuroblastoma) in February. Andrew is undergoing chemotherapy in Dublin’s children’s hospital. (Read more @**Pray for Andrew Mullins** on Facebook)

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Celebrate St Patrick's Day and Pray for Ireland

Thursday March 17, 2011

A taste of Ireland:

- ♣ Invite friends and family to an Irish meal – enjoy favourite dishes such as leek and potato soup, wheaten bread or Irish shortbread (*see recipes*)
- ♣ Organise a traditional Irish céilidh (dance).
- ♣ Hire Riverdance on DVD!
- ♣ Listen to traditional Irish music.
- ♣ Dress in green to watch a St. Patrick's Day parade on TV or attend a parade in your area.

Creative prayer ideas:

- ♣ Gather round a map of Ireland as you pray.
- ♣ Pray by name for missionaries you know working in Ireland and then write a postcard or letter of encouragement to them.
- ♣ Take stones and build them into a wall. As you do so, pray for God to build His Church in Ireland. Pray for unity between churches.
- ♣ Pray scripture: chose a psalm or relevant scripture and use it to pray for Ireland.
- ♣ Pray for the new Irish government – ask for God's blessing on those in power and pray that they will govern with justice and righteousness.
- ♣ Use charcoal or pencil to write down problems such as alcoholism, suicide, high unemployment, gang violence, teenage pregnancy, domestic abuse etc. that are prevalent in Ireland. As you pray about these issues, use an eraser to rub out the words.
- ♣ Slice up pieces of fruit and share them together. Pray for Christians in Ireland to live lives that are characterized by the fruit of the Spirit. Pray that the ministry of OM Ireland and many other mission agencies and churches around Ireland will bear fruit.

Have fun fund raising*:

- ♣ Encourage all your friends to download the song "Patrick's Breastplate" by MrJAG on [iTunes](#) and [Amazon](#) (all proceeds go to support the work of OM Ireland).
- ♣ Hold a St. Patrick's Day cake sale – top the cakes with green frosting
- ♣ Offer St. Patrick's Day face painting (shamrocks, Irish flags, etc.)



- ♣ Run a 'green' car wash (with environmentally friendly cleaning products)
- ♣ Sell shamrock badges / button holes
- ♣ Take a collection during any of your special St Patrick's Day events.

*Donations for OM Ireland can be sent to your local OM office.

Irish Recipes

(All recipes courtesy of [Fahan Presbyterian Church](#), Fahan, Co Donegal, Ireland)

Wheaten Bread

Ingredients

- ♣ 12 oz wholemeal flour
- ♣ 8 oz plain flour
- ♣ 2 heaped teaspoons of baking soda
- ♣ 2 teaspoons of salt
- ♣ 4 oz caster sugar
- ♣ 3 oz margarine
- ♣ 1 egg
- ♣ 1 pint buttermilk

Method

Pre-heat oven to 180°C. Rub margarine into dry ingredients. Add egg. Add buttermilk and mix all together.

Divide mixture between 2 x 1 lb loaf tins. Sprinkle wholemeal flour on top.

Cooking time: 40 minutes.

Leek Potato Soup

Ingredients

- ♣ 350g / 12oz potatoes
- ♣ 3 leeks
- ♣ 25g / 1oz butter
- ♣ 1 onion – chopped
- ♣ 850 ml / 1 ½ pt vegetable stock

Method

Cut potatoes into slices. Trim and slice leeks. Melt butter, add leeks and onion. Cook gently for 5 mins without browning. Add potatoes and cook for 3 mins. Add stock, bring to boil. Cover and simmer gently for 20 – 30 mins. Puree. Return to clean pan. Reheat gently.

Butter Shortbread

Ingredients

- ♣ 8oz butter
- ♣ 4oz caster sugar
- ♣ 4oz cornflour
- ♣ 8oz plain flour

Method

Pre-heat oven to 180°C. Beat butter and caster sugar together until white and creamy. Beat in the flour and cornflour. Roll out on floured board and cut into rounds (or shamrocks for St Patrick's Day).

Cooking Time: 20 mins (until golden brown).