

## Reflection Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Week Lent St Patrick 2022

### From the Confession of Saint Patrick:

I give unceasing thanks to God, who kept me faithful in the day of my testing. Today I confidently offer God sacrifice, giving myself as a living victim to Christ, my Lord, who kept me safe through all my trials. I can now say: *Who am I, Lord, and what is my calling, that you worked through me with such divine power? You did all this so that today among the Gentiles I might constantly rejoice and glorify your name wherever I may be, both in prosperity and in adversity. You did it so that, whatever happened to me, I might accept good and evil equally, always giving thanks to God.*

God showed me how to have faith in him, as one never to be doubted. He answered my prayer in such a way that, ignorant though I am, I might be bold enough to take up so holy and so wonderful a task, and imitate in some degree those whom the Lord had so long ago chosen as heralds of his Gospel, bearing witness to all nations.

I came to the Irish peoples to preach the Gospel and endure the taunts of unbelievers, putting up with reproaches about my earthly pilgrimage, suffering many persecutions, even bondage, and losing my birth-right of freedom for the benefit of others.

I want to spend myself in that country, even in death, if the Lord should grant me this favour. I am deeply in debt, for God gave me the great grace that through me many peoples should be reborn in God, and then made perfect by confirmation and everywhere among them clergy ordained for a people so recently coming to believe, one people gathered by the Lord from the ends of the earth. As God prophesied through the prophets: The nations shall come to you from the ends of the earth, and say: *“How false are the idols made by our fathers: they are useless.”* And: *“I have set you as a light among the nations, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”*

May the Strength of God pilot us.

May the Power of God preserve us.

May the Wisdom of God instruct us.

May the Hand of God protect us.

May the Way of God direct us.

May the Shield of God defend us.

May the Host of God guard us.

May Christ be with us!

May Christ be before us!

May Christ be in us and over all!

May your Salvation, Lord, always be ours,  
this day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.