

# St Declan

*Bishop, Lismore diocese, 5th century  
24th July*

## The Gathering of God's People

### THE GREETING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### SENTENCE

Brothers and sisters, be joyful, and keep your faith and belief, and do the little things which you have heard and seen with me.

*St David*

### INTRODUCTION

Declan, of Ardmore in West Waterford, was a prince of the tribe of Decies among whom there were Christians prior to the coming of Patrick. It is believed that when Patrick was escaping from slavery he received Christian hospitality among the Decies. The round tower at Ardmore (95 feet in height) is probably the best surviving example of its kind.

### OPENING PRAYER

O God, your name is blessed  
from the rising of the sun to its setting;  
fill our hearts with knowledge of yourself  
and our mouths with your praise,  
that from East to West all may sing your glory,  
with one voice and accord,  
in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus,  
you call by name those who are yours:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you lead us in the right paths for your name's sake:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**

Lord Jesus,  
you are the door of the sheepfold;  
those who enter by you will be saved:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
you have knit together your elect  
in one communion and fellowship  
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:  
Grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints  
in all virtuous and godly living  
that we may come to those inexpressible joys  
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

### THE FIRST READING

*Ezekiel 34: 11-16*

For thus says the Lord God: behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock with some of his sheep have been scattered abroad, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples, and gather them from the countries, and we bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the fountains, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and upon the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good

grazing land, and on fat pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself would be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

*Psalm 1*

**Their delight is in the law of the Lord  
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful. **℟**

Their delight is in the law of the Lord  
and they meditate on his law day and night.  
Like a tree planted by streams of water  
bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not wither,  
whatever they do, it shall prosper. **℟**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.  
Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgment,  
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.  
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall perish. **℟**

THE SECOND READING

*1 Peter 5: 1-4*

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is to be revealed. Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

I am the good shepherd:

I know my own and my own know me. **Alleluia!** *John 10:14*

THE GOSPEL READING

*John 10: 11-16*

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ,  
according to St. John, chapter 10, beginning at verse 11.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the father knows me and I know the father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## The Prayers of the People

We give thanks for the earliest Christian witness in Ireland.  
We pray for all who exercise Christian hospitality.

Light of all who sit in darkness:  
we remember with thanksgiving Declan,  
and those who spread your light  
when this land was in the grip of paganism.  
Strengthen all who bear witness today  
to those who do not know Jesus Christ.  
Grant this for his Name's sake. **Amen.**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE

Peace be to you, and peace to your house,  
and peace to all who are yours. *1 Samuel 25: 6*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Celebrating at the Lord's Table

### THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Wise and gracious God,  
you spread a table before us;  
nourish your people with the word of life,  
and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

### THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

*The priest takes the bread and cup*

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Eucharistic Prayer 2 With Extended Preface*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,  
our duty and salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we remember Declan,  
who in your loving providence  
enabled your Church to grow in spirit  
as the body of Christ.

To your children he faithfully proclaimed  
the good news of salvation  
and nourished them by ministering your sacraments.  
Through a pastor's love  
he led your people to share your grace  
and witness to the world  
in the communion of one true faith  
and in the work of selfless charity.

On this his feast, we join with him to praise you  
and in the company of angels and all the host of heaven  
we sing for ever of your glory;

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest**

Merciful Father, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and this wine,  
and we pray that we who eat and drink them  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
in obedience to our Saviour Jesus Christ  
in remembrance of his death and passion  
may be partakers of his body and his blood,  
who on the night he was betrayed took bread  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his Disciples, saying,  
Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you;  
Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his Disciples, saying,  
Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Father, with this bread and this cup,  
we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
we celebrate the redemption he has won for us;  
we proclaim his perfect sacrifice,  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
and we look for his coming  
to fulfil all things according to your will.

**Christ has died;**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom and in whom,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*or*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**Our Father, who art in heaven**  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

They recognized the Lord, Alleluia;  
**in the breaking of the loaf, Alleluia;**

For the loaf that we break is the body  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, Alleluia;

**The cup which we bless is the blood**  
**of our Lord Jesus Christ, Alleluia**  
**for the remission of our sins. Alleluia;**

O Lord, let your mercy come upon us, Alleluia;  
**in you O Lord have I put my trust. Alleluia.**

They recognized the Lord, Alleluia;  
**in the breaking of the loaf, Alleluia.**

*Lk 24:35 1 Cor 10:16-17; Mt 26:28 Ps 31:1 Stowe (9th c)*

#### AGNUS DEI

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us**  
**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**



*or*

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God,  
who has taken away the sins of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

#### THE COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

#### THE GREAT SILENCE

### Going out as God's People

#### PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

God, shepherd of your people,  
whose servant Declan revealed the loving service of Christ  
in his ministry as a pastor of your people;  
by this eucharist in which we share  
awaken within us the love of Christ  
and keep us faithful to our Christian calling:  
through him who laid down his life for us,  
but is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the spiritual food  
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

DISMISSAL  
*The Blessing*

Christ the good shepherd,  
who laid down his life for the sheep,  
draw you and all who hear his voice,  
to be one flock within one fold;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**