

Be Thou My Vision

Words by Dallán Forgaill, translated from Irish to English in 1905 by Mary E. Byrne & Music arranged by Eleanor H. Hull 1912

Sing along with Stuart Townend & Robin Mark @ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CMclLT_Hjg

From *The Mandate* provided to YouTube by Absolute Marketing International Ltd. ©d 2006 Integrity Music

D A7 Bm A G A Bm
Be Thou my vis - ion, O Lord of my heart.

A F#m7
Nought be all else to me,

G D A

Save that Thou art;

G Bm D A G A
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;

D G Bm G D
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

D A7 Bm A G A Bm
High King of heaven, after victory won,

A F#m7
May I reach heaven's joys,

G D A

O bright heaven's Sun!

G Bm D A G A
Heart of my own heart, whatever befa- ll,

D G Bm G D
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

D A7 Bm A G A Bm
Be Thou my wisdom, Thou my true word.

A F#m7 G D A
I ever with Thee, Thou with me, Lord.

G Bm D A G A

Thou my great Father and I Thy true son;

D G Bm G D

Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

D A7 Bm A G A Bm
Be Thou my bat-tle-shield, sword for the fight,

A F#m7 G D A

Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight.

G Bm D A G A

Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower:

D G Bm G D

Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

D A7 Bm A G A Bm
Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise.

A F#m7 G D A

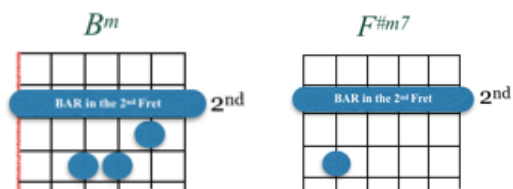
Thou mine inheritance now and always.

G Bm D A G A

Thou and Thou only, first in my heart.

D G Bm G D

High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.



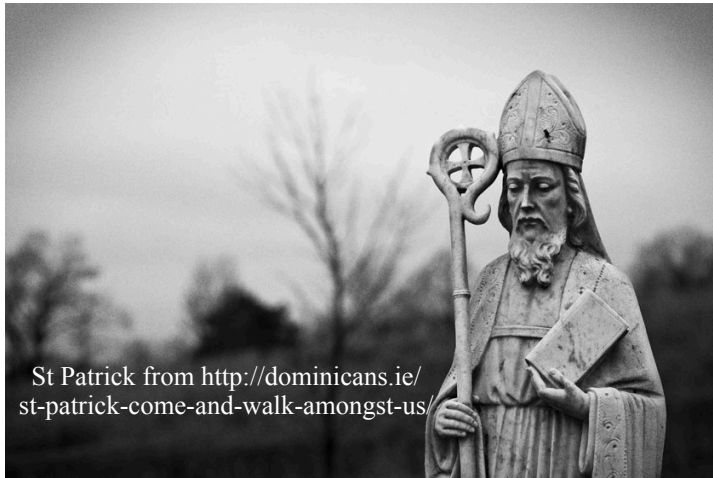
Some will say 'tis a sin to play upon the reddened strings.



History

St. Patrick (385-461 AD) is the patron saint of Ireland. The traditional date of his death, March 17th is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland,

Newfoundland, Labrador, and Montserrat (*The Emerald Isle of the Caribbean*). It is also widely celebrated by the Irish diaspora; especially in Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand.



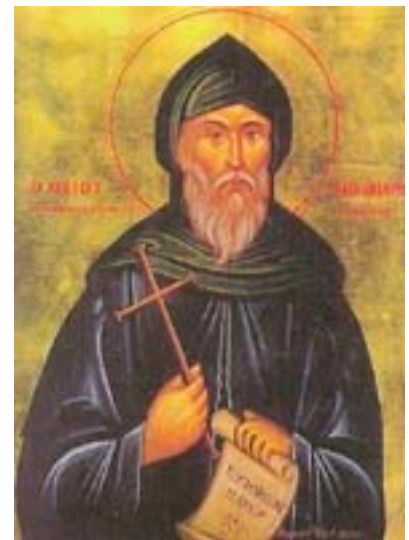
St Patrick from <http://dominicans.ie/st-patrick-come-and-walk-amongst-us/>

Eochaid Mac Colla (c. 530 – 598), better known as Saint Dallan or Dallán Forgaill, was an

early Christian Irish poet traditionally known as the writer of "Rop Tú Mo Baile" (*Be Thou My Vision*) as a tribute to St. Patrick.

The text had been a part of Irish monastic tradition for centuries before its setting to music. The hymn was translated from Irish to English in 1905 by Mary E. Byrne. In 1912, Eleanor H. Hull arranged the song into the verse most commonly found in English hymnals today. In 1919, the lyrics were set to the tune of the Irish folk tune "Slane".

This may or not be Dallán Forgaill. Image found at www.writeopinions.com/



The Hill of Slane, rises 158 meters (518 ft) to the north of the village of Slane and offers a commanding view of the surrounding area. *Muirchu moccu Machtheni*, a seventh century hagiography of the life of Patrick, says that he lit a fire on top of the Hill of Slane in celebration of Easter in 433 in defiance of the High King Lóegaire who forbid any other fires while a pagan festival fire was burning on the Hill of Tara. The Hill of Slane can be seen from the Hill of Tara which is about 16 kilometers away. According to *Muirchu*, Lóegaire was so impressed by Patrick's devotion that, despite his defiance (or perhaps because of it), he let him continue his missionary work in Ireland.



Hill of Slane Church on a cloudy day
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Wikipedia