

## **Novena to St. Patrick**

*Say once a day for 9 days, especially beginning on 8 March and ending on 16 March, the eve of the Feast of St. Patrick.*

Blessed saint Patrick, glorious Apostle of Ireland, who didst become a friend and father to me for ages before my birth, hear my prayer and accept, for God, the sentiments of gratitude and veneration with which my heart is filled. Through thee I have inherited that faith which is dearer than life. I now make thee the representative of my thanks, and the mediator of my homage to Almighty God. Most holy Father and patron of my country, despise not my weakness; remember that the cries of little children were the sounds that rose, like a mysterious voice from heaven, and invited thee to come amongst us. Listen, then, to my humble supplication; may my prayer ascend to the throne of God, with the praises and blessings which shall ever sanctify thy name and thy memory. May my hope be animated by the patronage and intercession of our forefathers, who now enjoy eternal bliss and owe their salvation, under God, to thy courage and charity. Obtain for me grace to love God with my whole heart, to serve him with my whole strength, and to persevere in good purposes to the end, o faithful shepherd of the Irish flock, who wouldst have laid down a thousand lives to save one soul, take my soul, and the souls of my countrymen, under thy special care. Be a father to the Church of Ireland and her faithful people. Grant that all hearts may share the blessed fruits of that Gospel thou didst plant and water. Grant that, as our ancestors of old had learned, under thy guidance, to unite science with virtue, we too, may learn, under thy patronage, to consecrate all Christian duty to the glory of God. I commend to thee my native land, which was so dear to thee while on earth. Protect it still, and, above all, direct its chief pastors, particularly those who teach us. Give them grace to walk in thy footsteps, to nurture the flock with the word of life and the bread of salvation, and to lead the heirs of the Saints thou hast formed to the possession of that glory which they, with Thee, enjoy in the kingdom of the Blessed: through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

V. Pray for us, O glorious saint Patrick.

R. And obtain for us the intention of this Novena.

## Lorica of Saint Patrick (ca. 377)

I arise today  
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the  
Trinity,  
Through a belief in the Threeness,  
Through confession of the Oneness  
Of the Creator of creation.

I arise today  
Through the strength of Christ's birth and His baptism,  
Through the strength of His crucifixion and His  
burial,  
Through the strength of His resurrection and His  
ascension,  
Through the strength of His descent for the judgment  
of doom.

I arise today  
Through the strength of the love of cherubim,  
In obedience of angels,  
In service of archangels,  
In the hope of resurrection to meet with reward,  
In the prayers of patriarchs,  
In preachings of the apostles,  
In faiths of confessors,  
In innocence of virgins,  
In deeds of righteous men.

I arise today  
Through the strength of heaven;  
Light of the sun,  
Splendor of fire,  
Speed of lightning,  
Swiftness of the wind,  
Depth of the sea,  
Stability of the earth,  
Firmness of the rock.

I arise today  
Through God's strength to pilot me;  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's hosts to save me

From snares of the devil,  
From temptations of vices,  
From every one who desires me ill,  
Afar and anear,  
Alone or in a multitude.

I summon today all these powers between me and  
evil,  
Against every cruel merciless power that opposes my  
body and soul,  
Against incantations of false prophets,  
Against black laws of pagandom,  
Against false laws of heretics,  
Against craft of idolatry,  
Against spells of women and smiths and wizards,  
Against every knowledge that corrupts man's body  
and soul.

Christ shield me today  
Against poison, against burning,  
Against drowning, against wounding,  
So that reward may come to me in abundance.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,  
Christ in the eye that sees me,  
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today  
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the  
Trinity,  
Through a belief in the Threeness,  
Through a confession of the Oneness  
Of the Creator of creation.