The Flame of Faith

Last Tuesday morning as usual we had the children’s (First Communion Classes) in Church for Mass. Mass was celebrated in honour of St. Patrick. I was all set to tell them a few things about him. “Twas a lovely sunny morning. They were in great form. I asked them ‘why’? They told me - “the Sun is in the sky, the birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, the grass is growing, the cows are back in the fields, – it’s Spring, and Spring had lifted their spirits”. I then asked them whose Saint are we celebrating this weekend and they told me - “its St. Patrick”. I asked them who was he and why was he so important that after 1700 years we in Ireland still celebrate him. They went on to tell me why - “because he came to Ireland as a slave - then went back to where he came from - but returned because the Irish people had never heard of Christ. He told them the Christian story. As a result they not only became Christians themselves but they spread the message in many parts of the world”.

The message I got from the children on Tuesday morning was they are so happy to be preparing to receive Jesus in Holy Communion, and they were also so happy to talk about Patrick and the importance of bringing the story of Christ to Ireland.

Are the children telling us something about our own relationship with Jesus today. The faith that Patrick brought was kept alive through thick and thin. They regarded it as a treasure, they persecuted and poverty. It helped people to cope with life, with Jesus today. The faith that Patrick brought was kept alive with the aid of generations of Irish people. That faith survived through persecution and poverty. It helped people to cope with life.

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Next weekend we begin our journey through Holy Week and into Easter Sunday. Palm Crosses will be available at all Church doors and will be Blessed at the beginning of each Mass.