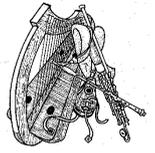




# The Shenanigans



## March (Márta) 2018 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

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1. A cult of St. Patrick is attested in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The day of his death is first recorded in the 7<sup>th</sup> century Life of St. Gertrud, who died on March 17, 659. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century, Ferdomnach, scribe of Armagh, testified to the celebration of St. Patrick's feast as a triduum (3 days celebrations). The cult of St. Patrick and some of his relics were brought to Péronne in Picardy by St. Fursa (middle of 7<sup>th</sup> century); the cult soon spread over France, Italy and Germany. When the Anglo-Normans established themselves in Ireland, they took over the cult of St. Patrick and other Irish saints.

In 1186 relics of Sts Patrick, Brigid, and Columcille were solemnly deposited in the cathedral of Down under the patronage of John de Courcy and Bishop Malachy. An English Cistercian, Jocelyn of Furness, was commissioned to write a life of St. Patrick and this became the standard text of later times.

(A little more of his story!)

### La Feile Padraig Shona Dhuit.

(Happy St. Patrick's Day.)

### 2. Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:

▪ **Heard at the February members' gathering:** Murphy says to Paddy, "What ya talkin into an envelope for?"  
"Oim sendin a voicemail, ya bleedin fool!"

- **The March Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm; **Members' night – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5 – 8 pm give or take.** **Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher: (30<sup>th</sup> is Good Friday – hence the change.)**
- **Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7 p.m. on EACH Tuesday in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish tunes** are played in the place where **'atmosphere is everything'**.
- **And don't forget our St. Patrick's Day march on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> beginning from the hotel at 10.30. See flyer.**
- Committee member and Registrar, Fran Frawley, did another excellent job in organising the St. Brigid's Day luncheon. Attended by a couple of dozen members and friends, all appreciated an excellent address from Lyn Hotchin about her schools in Cambodia. These places are soon going to be totally independent. **Fran was also presented with her most worthy Life Membership at the luncheon.**
- **February Committee Meeting:** **1)** the April Committee meeting was shifted to 5<sup>th</sup> because of the Show Holiday on 12<sup>th</sup>; **2)** new National member, Lynette Hotchin, was approved. We look forward to seeing Lynette at our Club gatherings; **3)** another Life Member will be acknowledged at the February members' night; **4)** it looks as though the St. Patrick's Day Parade could be held on the day itself – pending TRC approval – check the flyer; **5)** the July Whiskey tasting night for Club members is in hand; **6)** subject to drawings, the fence mending along Station Street was approved; **7)** payment in kind for the "Sessiun" players who provide entertainment at our functions at no cost was agreed to.

3. **WWW Sites:** If planning a walk up **Croagh Patrick**, at the foot of the mountain you'll find the village of Murrisk, Co. Mayo, with its excellent Tavern and Bar: [www.tavernmurrisk.com](http://www.tavernmurrisk.com)

4. **News from Ireland:**

▪ Every year, Dublin City Library chooses a book for everyone to read and discuss. **OneCityBook** runs through April and this year the book is *The Long Gaze Back*, an anthology of short stories by 30 Irish **female** writers including Elizabeth Bowen, Anne Enright and Mary Lavin. This publication will introduce these talented writers to all kinds of new readers – go to [www.dublinonecityonebook.ie](http://www.dublinonecityonebook.ie)

5. **Bits and Pieces:**

▪ **An Irish Epitaph:**

“Here lies the body of Thomas Kemp.  
Lived by wool, died by hemp.”

(Thomas - hanged for sheep stealing.)

▪ **Quote from James Joyce:** “Each lost soul will be a hell unto itself, the boundless fire raging in its very vitals.”

(Thank God we think differently now days.)

6. **This month in history.** Sinn Fein Chief Negotiator Martin McGuinness died after a short illness on 21 March 2017. His legacy - the Irish Peace Process, a greatly strengthened Sinn Fein and progress towards Irish Unity.

7. **‘Tings ‘Oirish:**

▪ **Who said this?** “The day the Catholic and Protestant Churches combine, it’s the end of all drinking. I’ll have to go to Rome and sabotage the affair.”

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month’s Irish Blessing:**

With the first light of day – **God Bless you.**

When the day is done – **God Bless You.**

In your smiles and in your tears - **God Bless You.**

Through each day of your years – **God Bless You.**

▪ **Irish Wisdom:** Good advice has no price.

▪ **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** A gentleman is one who never hurts anyone’s feelings unintentionally.

▪ **W. B. Yeats’ poem:** “The Lake Isle of Innisfree.” (A repeat.)

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;  
There midnight’s all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,  
And evening full of the linnet’s wings. (Cont’d.)

▪ **This Month’s Limerick:**

The bottle of scent Willie sent  
Was quite displeasing to Millicent.

Her thanks were so cold

That they quarrelled, I’m told,

‘Bout the silly scent Willie sent Millicent.

8. **Irish History: The Ascendancy – 1700’s.**

The protestant Ascendancy of the 18<sup>th</sup> century consisted of major landowners who subscribed to the Church of Ireland, an Anglican church but one with a pronounced Calvinist streak which influenced its worship and liturgical practices, if not the secular behaviour of its members.

(Continued.)

9. **Words from President, Tomas.**

Hello Folks,

Plenty to report at this stage. Firstly congratulations to Peter Kenny on receipt of his Life Membership at the February Members night.

It is very much deserved and we continue to thank Peter for his commitment, involvement, and support. Secondly, St Patrick’s Day rapidly approaches. A slightly different approach this year will see us parade on the Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>.

Normally we would have paraded on the immediate Sunday, however, in a moment of hysteria the committee decided to angle for the Saturday. This will result in additional traffic disruption and also much heavier crowds at the hotel on the day. So we will need to work in with Cameron the landlord for our use of the Celtic Bar, which will not be private in this instance. Mick Ryan is organising some Irish Dancers for us after the parade, which will be nice. Further details will follow after our committee meeting this week and updates are on the website.

*Tomas*



(Answer: Brendan Behan..)