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**St. Patrick's Purgatory Draws Many Pilgrims to Donegal Isle**

Dublin — (RNS) — Pilgrims from every district of Ireland, and some from such faraway places as Australia and the United States, are currently making their way to the country's most hallowed shrine—St. Patrick's Purgatory at Lough Derg.

Unique in its history, St. Patrick's Purgatory is the sole remaining example in the world of the ancient penitential discipline of the Catholic Church.

Pilgrims arriving there spend a three-day vigil. They eat only one meal of dry bread and black, unsweetened tea, or water, daily. They practice severe penances. Some walk thirty or forty miles to the shrine in their bare feet. Many have made the pilgrimage as often as fifty times.

St. Patrick's Purgatory is located on a tiny island in a bleak lake hidden away amid Donegal's wild fuzze-covered mountains. It has been a sanctuary for the past 1,500 years—ever since the day when a weary man, after travelling widely among the solitudes of Donegal, came upon the remote lake.

**THAT MAN**—a foreign missionary—was known as Padraig mac Calpuirn. Later he was to be venerated as St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland.

Tradition has it that St. Patrick rowed across Lough Derg to the island. There he entered a dark cave and prayerfully implored the fires of Purgatory. When his wish was granted, Patrick resolved that henceforth penitents should visit the island and ask God to forgive their sins and preserve them from the fires of Purgatory.

During the Middle Ages the fame of the shrine spread over the length and breadth of Europe. Princes and knights and noblemen forsook their courts and made pilgrimages to the west. Oftentimes they brought costly gifts of gold and silver—chalices, cups, awards and church ornaments.

**MANY ATTEMPTS** were made down the years to suppress the pilgrimage to Lough Derg. In 1639, at the order of the British Crown, the Augustinian monks in charge of the island were expelled. Their monastery was levelled.

The monks, however, had received a warning that British soldiers were coming to destroy the monastery they had occupied for upwards of 600 years. One Irish historian relates that the prior had all the monastery's costly valuables gathered in one place.

That night, while the Corripilla was being sung, the prior and two sturdy monks slipped out, loaded the pilgrims' gifts in a boat, and rowed across the lake. Where they buried the hoard of gold and silver no man knows even now.

**THE ISLAND** shrine did not long remain in ruin, however. Peasants in that locality soon rebuilt the monastery and Franciscan monks replaced the ousted Augustinians. And the annual pilgrimages were resumed.

Again, in 1708, an attempt was made to suppress St. Patrick's Purgatory. It was in the third year of the reign of Queen Anne of England that she issued a ukase declaring that all meetings

and assemblies, such as those at Lough Derg, "shall be deemed and adjudged riots and unlawful assemblies, and punishable as such."

But Queen Anne's enmity was fruitless and St. Patrick's Isle continued to flourish and it subsequently played a major part in keeping the Catholic faith alive throughout the land.

It was during the Middle Ages, too, that St. Patrick's Purgatory provided inspiration for poets and dramatists. In the middle of the 12th century, for instance, a monk named Gilbert published a Latin poem about Lough Derg. A metrical version of his work is still preserved in London's British Museum.

The second part of Dante's "Divine Comedy" is believed to have been based on St. Patrick's Purgatory, while the Italian poet Ariosto also referred to the Purgatory in his famed "Orlando Furioso." The Spanish poet Calderon, who lived in the 17th century, based his "Purgatorio de San Patricio" on the island shrine.

**4-Chaplains Stamp Issued At White House Ceremonies**

Washington, D. C.—More than 900 representatives of the Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish faiths participated in White House ceremonies here which marked the first-day issuance of a stamp commemorating the four chaplains who died together when the *Dorchester* was torpedoed in World War II.

President Truman was present with the first sheet of stamps honoring the four: Chaplains George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling, Protestants; John P. Washington, Catholic; and Alexander D. Goode, Jewish. The presentation was made in the White House gardens by Postmaster General Jesse Donaldson. Portfolios containing the memorial stamps were also presented to families of the four chaplains.

The President told the group that he didn't think "in the history of the world that there was anything in heroism to equal" that of the deceased chaplains. He described the new stamp as "a fitting memorial to these four men who gave their lives that others might live."

"They actually acted out the things for which we stand in our moral code," the Chief Executive said. "And it was not a sectarian program. There were two Protestants, a Catholic and a Jew who participated in this wonderful act of heroism. No man can say anything that can add to that act."

**Paris Chapel 700 Years Old**

Paris — The 700th anniversary of the consecration of the Sainte Chapelle of Paris, built by order of St. Louis King of France, and one of the most beautiful monuments of the Christian art of the 13th century, has just been observed here with the offering of a special Mass in the chapel.

Built of stone with large windows containing the richest examples of mediaeval stained-glass, the chapel was erected to house relics of the True Cross given to St. Louis in 1239 by Eudouin de Courtenay, Christian Emperor of Constantinople. Receiving the relics at the town of Villeneuve situated 120 kilometres from Paris, St. Louis and his brother, the Count of Artois, returned to Paris barefoot.

During the Revolution the Sainte Chapelle was offered for sale with a view to its demolition, but no one was found to undertake this operation. The chapel today is surrounded by buildings of the Courts of Justice, only its roof and spire appearing above the surrounding buildings. Annually at the opening of the courts a Solemn Mass is offered there for judges and lawyers.

Relics of the True Cross and of the Crown of Thorns are now preserved in the Cathedral of Notre Dame. A splinter of the True Cross has been placed in the metal socket which holds the crucifix on the 300-foot spire of the famous Cathedral.

**To Mexico**



Bishop Alonso Escobar, M.M., Vicar Apostolic of the Pando, Maryknoll mission in lowland Bolivia, who will be loaned to Mexico as rector of the Mexican hierarchy's new foreign mission seminary, according to word received from the Holy See. An American citizen, the bishop was consecrated in 1943. (No Photos.)

**Firing From Church Tower Is Denied**

Jerusalem (NC) — The statement attributed to the French consul that the tower of St. Saviour's Church was fired on because it was being used by combatants is emphatically denied here. There was never any shooting from the church tower, not from the monastery although both were repeatedly subjected to mortar bombs and gunfire.

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**Two 'Boys Towns' Opened in Japan**

Tokyo (NC) — Two new "Boys Towns" which will serve to perpetuate the memory of the late Mgr. Edward J. Flanagan, have been established in Japan, one in Kobe and the other in Sendai.

The Kobe establishment, which was made possible by gifts from His Holiness Pope Pius XII and Monsignor Flanagan, is situated on a five-acre tract once belonging to a training school and began with five boys last February. On a larger scale is the Sendai institution which is under the direction of the Christian Brothers and is being developed on a ten-year plan.

**Cured by Water, Girl Claims**

London (NC) — Sixteen-year-old Lily Sutton of Birkenhead, near Liverpool, is claiming that her crippled leg has been cured by immersion in the waters of St. Winefred's Well at Holywell, North Wales, a popular Welsh pilgrimage center.

She now walks normally, she declares, after having worn an iron brace for four years. She decided to test the healing powers of the well after her mother, who suffers from facial paralysis, was considerably improved on applying water from the well.

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