



Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

March 25 – Lady Day

The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



This story (Luke 1.26-38) takes place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25 March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25 December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - he was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practise - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in his will for her life.

Who is like you?

Who is like you, Jesus, sweet Jesus?

You are the light of those who are spiritually lost.

You are the life of those who are spiritually dead.

You are the liberation of those who are imprisoned by guilt.

You are the glory of those who hate themselves.

You are the guardian of those who are paralysed by fear.

You are the guide of those who are bewildered by falsehood.

You are the peace of those who are in turmoil.

You are the prince of those who yearn to be led.

You are the priest of those who seek the truth.

Johann Freylinghausen (1670 – 1739)