

Visit to St Patricks Well by Columba Community

Amidst the various parades around the country on St Patricks the Columba Community of Prayer and Reconciliation went on pilgrimage to the hill of Grianán Aileach. Prince Eoghan, after whom Inishowen is named was baptised at An Grianán by St Patrick in 450AD. A well known as St Patrick's Well is situated between the two outer banks on the south side of the hill. The well is said to have healing powers.

Prior to the group's departure to the holy well Fr Neal Carlin presided over a celebration of the Eucharist at St Canice's Oratory at the Celtic Prayer Garden and this was followed by a hearty Irish stew at the IOSAS centre.

The purpose of the visit to St Patrick's Holy Well was to pray for a blessing on National Holy Wells Day and for the need to revive the Ancient Celtic Christian tradition in Ireland.

"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed the water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:14

"Dear St Patrick we beg that you intercede for the people of Ireland, that we be inspired by the ancient Celtic Christian Spirit of love for one another, for our families, for a spirit of hospitality and community, for a love and respect for creation and a spirit of justice and peace."

"We pray that people all over the country will be drawn to pray together at Holy Wells for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit that will lead people to form Spirit filled Basic Christian Communities that will contribute to the building of the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen"

Josephine Stroker