

Colmcille, at a glance!

He was born in Donegal in 521
To mother and father he was their son
A son who knew of theirs' and God's love
His name given was Colm, meaning dove
In Donegal the landscape has many a hill
Frequent visits to Church, he became known as 'Colmcille'
During school life he learnt much
Art, poetry, music and God's touch
And all his learning looked to God's gaze
Whose care for all creation is always ablaze
Through monastic schools the lessons were not least
And later it led him to being ordained a priest
Just like today a plague broke out
But it didn't stop Colmcille from looking about
In 546 the Columban monastery was found
It was built in Derry, on its very ground
However, as he was also a prince
A huge battle broke out and happened since
That in one big clash many would die
It was the guilt of Colmcille's side, no lie
As a result of all that, a meeting was called
And across the coals Colmcille was hawled
The killings caused could gain no support
So Colmcille set to sea from the Irish port
In 563 from Lough Foyle he set sail
With 12 companions they journeyed through gale
To Iona, the Island they came to live
Service to God was their call to give
For 34 years Colmcille lived there
A life of study, hard work and prayer
Many a journey from Iona was done
From the message of God, he never did shun
Another voyage led him to clear water
For all that he taught, no one could falter
And Swords became a heavenly place
A monastery built, a sacred place

Exhausted and tired from his daily strife
June 9th 597 saw his final journey to Eternal life.
That while at prayer at the altar in Church
God called him, forgave him and rewards him much.

By Sr Edel Murphy OP

St. Colmcille.....pray for us

1. In what year was Colmcille born?
2. Where was he born?
3. What does Colm mean?
4. How did he get the name Colmcille?
5. What was the name of the Lough he set sail from?
6. In your own words or by drawing a picture can you describe him and the work he did?
7. List the names of places mentioned in the poem and if you can, look them up on an atlas.
8. Imagine the journey made to the various places. Draw or write what your thoughts are.
9. When did Colmcille die?
10. What day do we celebrate the feast of St. Colmcille?