

Class 2. Christianity comes to Ireland:

**Fantastic Books
and Where to Find
Them**



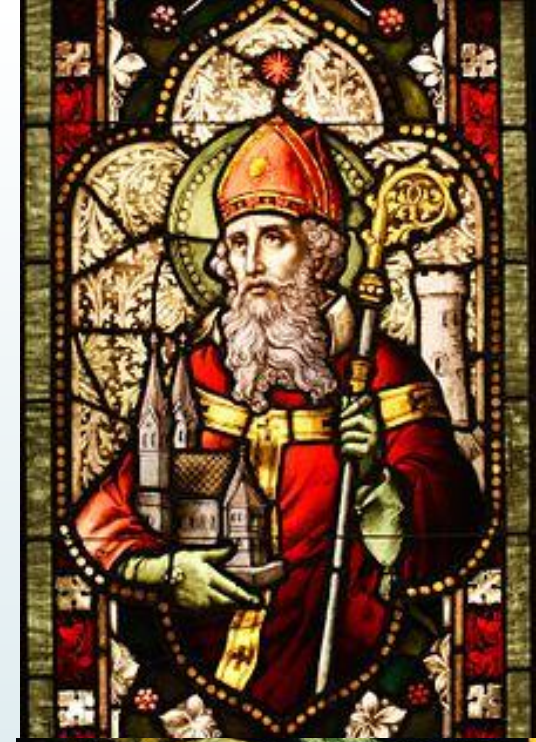
Overview

- Christianization of Ireland
- The myth of St. Patrick
- The monasteries of Ireland. Clonmacnoise
- Illuminated manuscripts. The Book of Kells
- Vikings in Ireland
- The English Invasion of Ireland

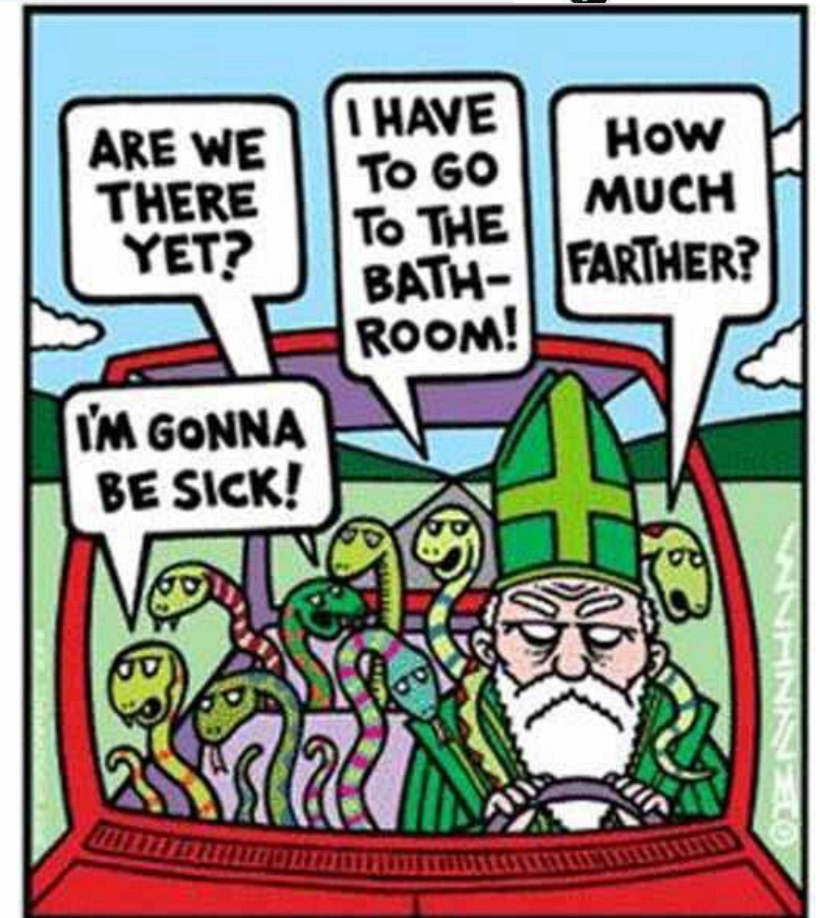


Christianization of Ireland

- 4-th cent. – Christianity spread to Ireland
- 431 – Pope Celestine, Palladius
- 432 – Patrick from Western England
- Born about 390 – 400
- 16 years old: captured by Irish raiders
- A slave, a herdsman
- Escape
- A vision: a missionary
- Death in 461



The Myth of St. Patrick



St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland.



St. Patrick's Day in Dublin

St. Patrick's Day in Dublin





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Clonmacnoise

- 500 – 800 – the golden age of the Irish church
- Clonmacnoise: Co.Offaly, the River Shannon
- Cathedral, castle, round tower, 2 high crosses, grave slabs
- Founded in the VI-th cent.
- Major centre of religion, learning, trade, craftsmanship and politics
- Plundered several times
- XIII-th cent. – decline
- 1552 – destroyed by the English garrison





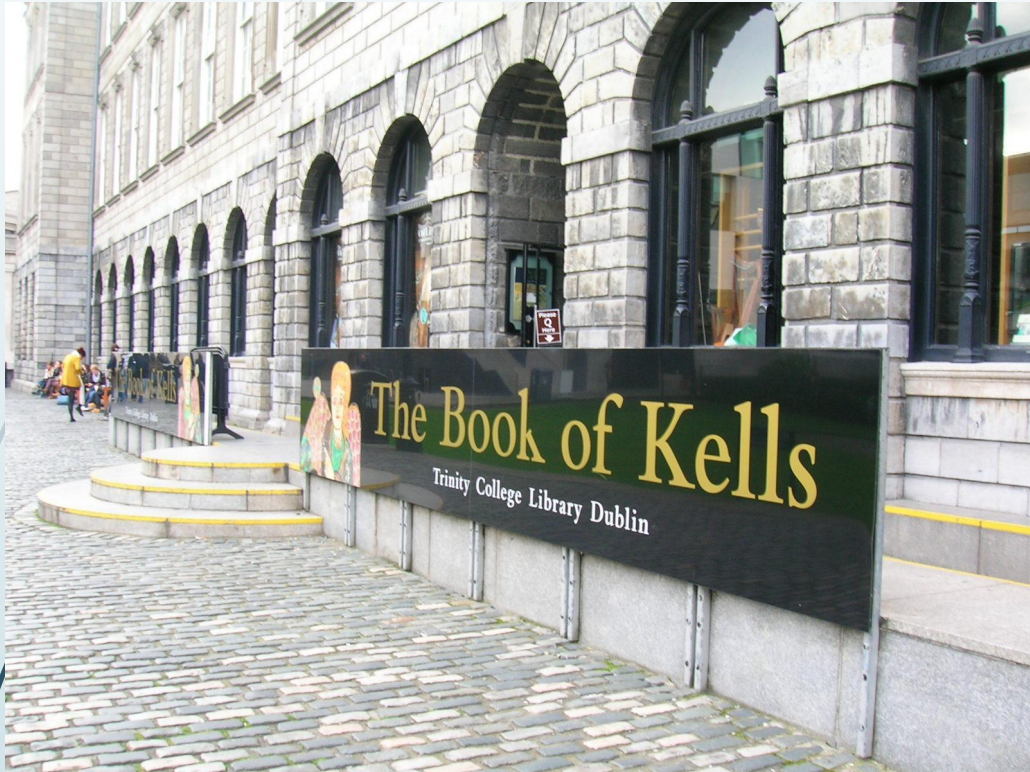
Clonmacnoise



The Book of Kells

- ❑ Illuminated manuscript
- ❑ Written in Latin
- ❑ 4 Gospels of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
- ❑ Kells, Co. Meath
- ❑ Brought to Kells after a raid on Iona (806)
- ❑ Around 800 – created
- ❑ Iona vs Kells?
- ❑ 3 scribes, 4 artists
- ❑ For display and ceremonial use

The Book of Kells



- 1641 – the monastery of Kells destroyed
- The book brought to Dublin
- Possession of Trinity College since 1661
- Since the middle of the XIX-th cent. on display in Trinity College's Old Library

The Chi Ro Page

- The Monogram page
- 'Christ' (Greek)
- Celtic designs, spirals, knots



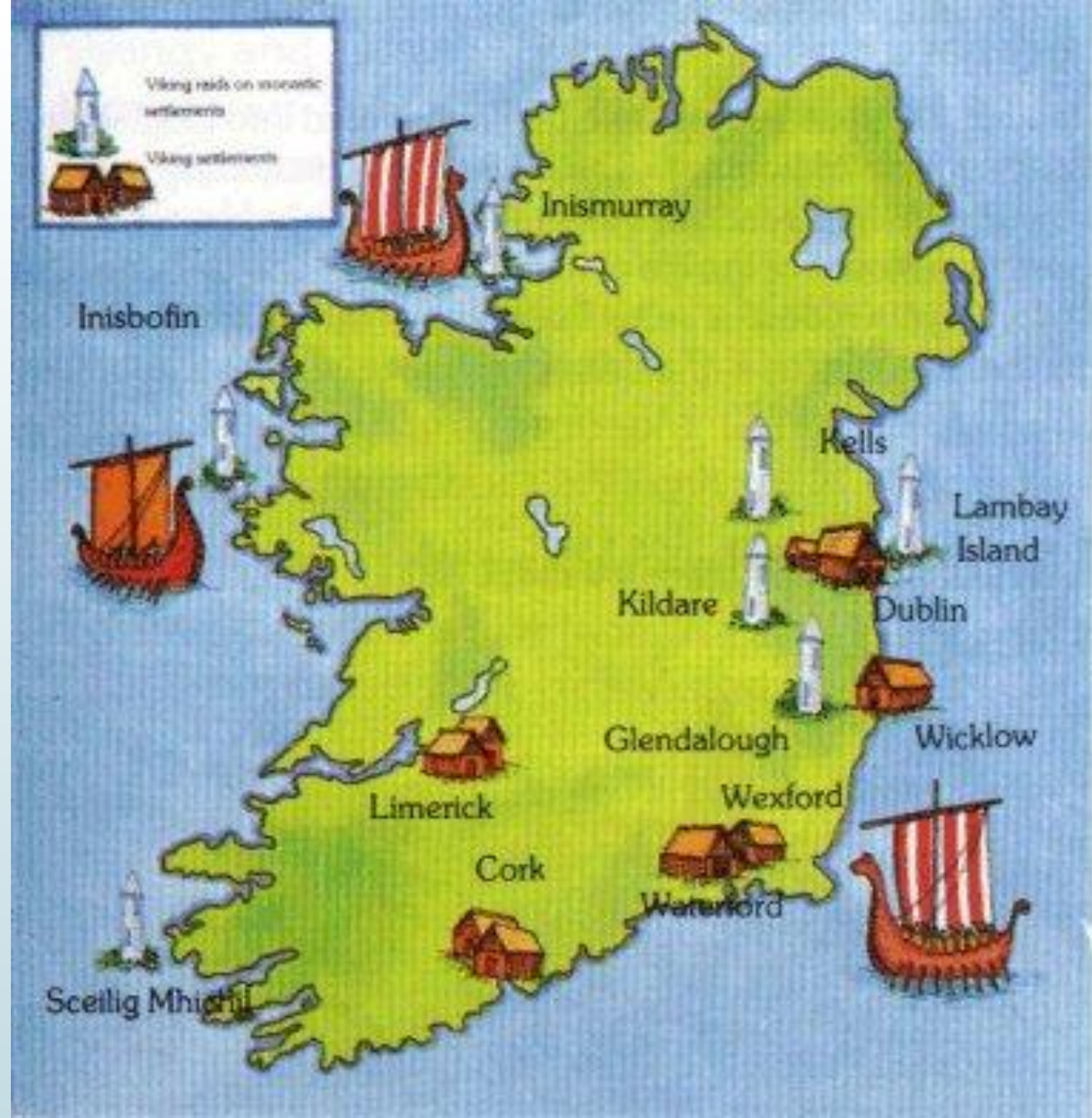


The Secret of Kells (2009)

- Aisling
- Pangur Ban
- Iona
- Kells
- Columba
- Aidan
- Tuatha de Danaan
- Crom Cruach

Vikings in Ireland

- First attack: 795
- Raiders + traders, craftsmen, settlers
- Founded Dublin, Wexford, Cork and Limerick (IX-th cent.)
- Eire (Gaelic) + “land” (Germanic) = Ireland



Vikings in Ireland vs Brian Boru

- ❑ Born around 940
- ❑ Munster conquered
- ❑ 968 – recaptured Cashel (capital of Munster)
- ❑ After 976 – king of Munster
- ❑ 1002 – the High King of Ireland
- ❑ 23 April 1014 – the Battle of Clontarf
- ❑ Danes defeated
- ❑ Viking threat ended
- ❑ Brian Boru killed
- ❑ Martyr vs ambitious military leader?



The English Invasion of Ireland

- ❑ Pope Adrian IV (English): permission to invade Ireland
- ❑ 1155, Henry II (the English king)
- ❑ Dermot MacMurrough, the king of Leinster
- ❑ 1166 – fled from Ireland, appealed to Henry II for help
- ❑ Got the support of FitzGilbert de Claire (Strongbow)
- ❑ 1167 – Dermot: return to Leinster
- ❑ 1169 – first English soldiers, Bannow Bay (Co. Wexford)



The English Invasion of Ireland



- ❑ 1170 – Strongbow; Waterford and Dublin captured
- ❑ Rory O'Connor defeated
- ❑ Strongbow becoming powerful
- ❑ Dublin, Waterford, Wexford
- ❑ Strongbow becoming the king of Leinster
- ❑ 1171 – Henry II landing in Ireland
- ❑ Strongbow submitting
- ❑ 1175 Rory O'Connor submitting
- ❑ The Treaty of Windsor

Extra resources:

- ❑ **Snakes:**

<http://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/the-real-reason-why-there-arent-any-snakes-in-ireland-sorry-st-patrick>

- ❑ **Clonmacnoise:** <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/ireland/clonmacnoise>

- ❑ **The Book of Kells:**

http://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/home/index.php?DRIS_ID=MS58_003v

- ❑ **The Chi Ro Page:**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/art/great-works/anonymous-the-chi-rho-from-the-book-of-kells-c800-828951.html>

- ❑ **Pangur Ban (the poem translated by Seamus Heaney):**

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/detail/48267>

- ❑ **Vikings:** <http://www.ncte.ie/viking/vikage.htm>

- ❑ **Conquests and invasions:** <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/ireland/history>

- ❑ **The Story of Ireland, a documentary TV series (2011), episode 1 'Age of Invasions', episode 2 'Age of Conquest':**

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4027192/>

Thank you for your attention!

