

MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

a celebration of our irish heritage

OPENING: On this St. Patrick's Day, we remember the Irish heritage of our foundress Catherine McAuley, and celebrate our foundation in Ireland as a community of Mercy. St. Patrick used the shamrock as a symbol to teach our ancestors the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Let us ask God to bless each of us in understanding of His great mystery.

PRAYER: **St. Patrick's Prayer**
May the Strength of God pilot us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Host of God guard us
Against the snares of the evil ones,
Against temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all!
May Thy Salvation, Lord,
Always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.

SONG: Click here for reflection song: *The Breastplate of St. Patrick*
Composed by Dr. John O'Keeffe, *St. Patrick's College Maynooth*

BLESSING: **An Irish Blessing**
God bless you at the mornings start
with a sunny outlook and a happy heart;

God bless you as you work away
and make the most of each new day;

God bless you with family and friends
and a sense of joy that never ends.

CLOSING: God, we celebrate the gift of the trinity, the leadership of St. Patrick in spreading your Word, and the life and legacy of Catherine McAuley in service to the most marginalized members of our society. We ask you to bless us with the courage of St. Patrick, and the spirit of Catherine. In your name, we give thanks for our many blessings.

AMEN.

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day