

St Patrick's Day Greetings from President McAleese

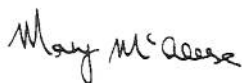
Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig ar chlann mhór dhomhanda na nGael, sa bhaile agus ar fud na cruinne, ar an lá náisiúnta ceiliúrtha seo.

Warmest St. Patrick's Day Greetings to everyone taking part in this happy festival celebration, in Ireland and around the world. This is our time for showcasing the spirit of the Irish through our wonderful culture and heritage, our gift for friendship and our love of life. We will gather in both the most obvious and the most obscure of places under the patronage of St. Patrick, a man, an immigrant to Ireland whose life was one of outrageous hardship and outstanding endurance. The chances are that wherever the Irish, and their neighbours and friends gather this St. Patrick's Day they will be making a very determined effort to find joy in adversity and a moment of distraction from serious economic and financial worries that face our country and our world.

St. Patrick's own personal story is one of facing into huge difficulties and hardships, not of his own making. His coping skills were sorely tested. In "The Deer's Cry", the beautiful poem attributed to him he says, "I arise today, through a mighty strength". We have our own mighty strength, in the goodness, decency and hard work of so many individuals, in our uniquely strong and robust sense of community, in our history of overcoming hardship, our culture of welcome, our investment in peace and in our ability on St. Patrick's Day to be family to one another from Beijing to Bahrain and from Belfast to Bantry. We know that our patron saint would encourage us to work with each other, for each other and work through these difficulties to a better future for everyone.

Behind every St. Patrick's Day gathering, wherever it is in the world, there is a story of men and women who came together to celebrate being Irish, whether by birth or by association. They are part of a generations old tradition of volunteering help to one another, and of being community to one another. I thank all of them for the many ways in which they bring such noble and life-enhancing qualities into our world and for the fun, enjoyment and happy memories they help create for us through St. Patrick's Day 2009.

To each and every one of you, I wish a wonderful St. Patrick's festival. Enjoy every moment of it and may the spirit of St. Patrick be with you and your families on this day and every day. May that mighty strength be yours as it was his.



MARY McALEESE
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

Teachtaireacht Lá Fhéile Pádraig ón Uachtarán Mhic Ghiolla Íosa

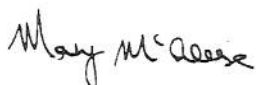
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Guím beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig ar gach duine atá rannpháirteach sa cheiliúradh lúcháireach seo, in Éirinn agus thar sáile. Is é seo am s'againne chun spiorad na nGael a chur ar taispeáint, tríd ár gcultúr agus ár n-oidhreacht iontach, bua ár gcairdis agus ár ngrá don bheatha. Baileoimid sna háiteanna is feiceálaí agus na háiteanna is lú aithne faoi phátrúnacht Naomh Pádraig, fear a bhí ina inimirceach d'Éirinn agus a raibh saol crua, fulangach aige. Is cuma cá mbaileoidh na Gaeil, a gcomharsana agus a gcairde an Lá Fhéile Pádraig seo, gach seans go mbeidh siad ag déanamh an-iarrachta sonas a bhaint as an anachain agus a n-intinn a tharraingt ó na buarthaí tromchúiseacha eacnamúla agus airgeadais atá os comhair ár dtíre agus ár ndomhain.

Is scéal faoi dheacrachtaí agus cruatain ollmhóra, nárbh é féin ba chúis leo ach a raibh air teacht tríothu, atá i scéal Naomh Pádraig. Cuireadh an-bhrú ar a chumas an ceann is fearr a fháil ar na deacrachtaí a bhí roimhe. Sa dán álainn "The Deer's Cry", a chuirtear síos dó féin, deir sé, "I arise today, through a mighty strength". Tá ár láidreacht iontach féin againn, i ndea-chroí, caoinbhéasa agus obair chrua an oiread sin daoine aonair; inár bpobal láidir folláin thar mar atá in aon áit eile; sa taithí atá againn ar an cheann is fearr a fháil ar chruatan; inár gcultúr fháilteach; inár n-infheistíocht sa tsíocháin agus inár gcumas ar Lá Fhéile Phádraig a bheith inár dteaghlach dá chéile ó Beijing go Bairéin agus ó Bhéal Feirste go Beanntraí. Tá a fhios againn go spreagfadh ár bpátrún muid chun oibriú lena chéile, dá chéile, agus oibriú tríd na deacrachtaí seo chun todhchaí níos fearr a mhúnlú do chuile dhuine.

Taobh thiar de gach teacht le chéile Lá Fhéile Pádraig, is cuma cén áit ar fud an domhain a bhfuil sé, tá scéal faoi fhir agus faoi mhná a tháinig le chéile chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh mar gur Gaeil iad, bíodh gur ó bhreith nó ó cheangal é. Tá siad mar chuid de thraidisiún a tháinig aniar chugainn tríd na glúnta d'oibriú go deonach chun cabhrú lena chéile agus a bheith mar phobal dá chéile. Glacaim buíochas leo go léir as na bealaí ar fad a dtugann siad na cáilíochtaí uaisle seo isteach inár ndomhan agus as ucht an spraoi, sásaimh agus cuimhní breátha a chruthaíonn siad dúinn i rith Lá Fhéile Pádraig 2009.

Guím gach rath oraibh go léir ag ceiliúradh na Féile Pádraig. Bainigí sult as gach nóiméad de, agus bíodh spiorad Naomh Pádraig libhse agus le bhur dteaghlaigh inniu agus chuile lá. Go raibh an láidreacht chéanna sin agaibhse is a bhí sé aige féin.



MÁIRE MHC GHIOLLA ÍOSA
UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN