



Slane Turas Celebrating the Light of the Christian Faith



Photo by John Boyle



Photo by Tony Crilly, Catherine Montgomery and John Boyle

The Hill of Slane

Almost 50 pilgrims from the Ardmore Parish and parishioners from parishes in the Faughan region gathered at Slane on the eve of St Patrick's Day to celebrate the light of Christian Faith which St Patrick brought to Ireland back in 432AD. His lighting of this flame before the Druid High Kings on the night of the Pagan festival symbolised the beginning of a new era, a new light had come to spread throughout Ireland, the light of Christianity. This lighting by Patrick, brought consternation to the Druid King which in turn, enabled St Patrick to communicate the Christian message to the High King of Tara and his court officials. They after hearing St Patrick's Good News about Christ, were likewise converted to the Christian faith. The symbolic lighting of the Flame of Christianity lit on the Hill of Slane in 432AD from then fanned into a flame in the hearts of the Irish spreading through centuries to the present times. In this Year of Faith in our Church, we are invited to renew and protect the light of Christian faith handed down to us and with St Patrick's courage and faith bear that light for other generations, renewing, protecting and keeping alight the flame of Christ, lit by St Patrick.

The Ardmore Pilgrims with fellow Parishioners along the Faughan region will bring that light of Christ lit at Slane on their next Pilgrim Walk on March 30th Turas Domhnach Dari (from Ardkill to Ardmore) assembling after the 10am Morning Prayer Service at St Mary's Ardmore Church car park to take Pilgrims to Ardkill. There we will start the Pilgrim Walk (11am) with a short prayer service and proceed then to walk along the Ardmore Rd back to St Mary's Church for concluding Turas service. This symbolic light brought on the Pilgrim walk will later be used to light the Paschal Candle at the start of the 9pm Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass.

