

Episcopal Ordination

of Ray Browne

In this Year of Faith we recall

St. Brendan navigated the seas,

Ours to tend the home shores.



BLIAIN AN CHREIDIMH

SUNDAY 21ST JULY, 2013



DIocese OF ST. BRENDAN
312-530 AD

*St. Brendan navigated the seas,
Ours to tend the home shores.*

St. B

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Episcopal ORDINATION

of
Ray Browne

for
Service in the Church

as
Bishop of Kerry

in St. Mary's Cathedral, Killarney, Co. Kerry
on Sunday 21st July, 2013

*St. Brendan navigated the seas,
Ours to tend the home shores.*



Where true love is dwelling, God is dwelling there;
Love's own loving Presence love does ever share.

Love of Christ has made us out of many one;
In our midst is dwelling God's eternal Son.

Give him joyful welcome, love him and revere;
Cherish one another with a love sincere.

Liturgy of the Hours

Coat of Arms

In the Coat of Arms, the keys represent St. Peter and the sword represents St. Paul. The Church of Sts. Peter and Paul in Athlone in the Diocese of Elphin is a great Christian proclamation on the banks of the Shannon river and a true gem of architecture and stained glass. It is Bishop Ray's home parish where he received Baptism and all the sacraments. The keys and the sword symbolise the great challenge of tending to the needs of keeping parish life vibrant, the life of the People of God.

The Universal Church celebrates this year as a Year of Faith. The Book of the Gospels shows the Alpha and the Omega symbolising Christ who is the source of our faith. The outline of Sceilig Mhichíl, superimposed with a circular Celtic Cross, speaks to us of the faith of past generations. The communities of monks, who for five hundred years and more inhabited the Sceilig, lived their whole lives in worship and praise of God the Father. For them God was worth their all.

May we, the people of the parishes of the Diocese of Kerry, be worthy to be counted among their successors.

Love one another

(Jn 15:12)

Bishop Ray's motto, 'Love one another' occurs three times in Chapters 13 to 15 in St John's Gospel. Twice in these chapters 'love one another' is accompanied by 'as I have loved you' (Jn 15:12). What we have generously received, we are asked to generously give. The depth of Jesus' generosity is revealed to us, 'as the Father has loved me so I have loved you' (Jn 15:9). We are loved with Divine love. The more we realise how loved we are, the more we will respond by living lives of love.

Love is the world's greatest need. It is ever a challenge to all Christians, personally and at local, national and international level. Today we are mindful of and thank God for the wonderful loving lives so many among us live. In all we do and say, let us be gentle, kind, caring and sensitive, as together we follow Jesus.

Tabhair grá dá chéile Love one another Ut diligatis invicem

Principal Ordaining Bishop
Most Reverend Dermot Clifford
Archbishop of Cashel and Emly

Assisted by
Most Reverend Charles John Brown
Titular Archbishop of Aquileia
Papal Nuncio to Ireland

and
Most Reverend William Murphy
Bishop of Kerry

Celebrated by the People of God
including
His Eminence, Seán Cardinal Brady
Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE HYMN

All Stand

Though we are many

Bernard Sexton

All Sing



*Though we are many, we are one body, we who come to share this living bread;
Cup of salvation, shared among all nations, nourishing us now and evermore.*

1. We gather in this place round the table of the Lord.
Christ's presence is revealed in our communion and his living word.
2. Now our communion recalls Christ's death and resurrection.
This living sacrifice is our salvation now and evermore.
3. And through this shared Eucharist we are the living Church.
We witness to Christ's love his living body active in our world.
4. This bread unites the baptised who are called to this great feast.
The feast, a sign of God's love, a great communion with the saints above.
5. And when we leave here today with hearts renewed in joy,
so nourished, we will embrace the challenge now to live the Christian call.
6. As Patrick prophet of old trod the path we tread today,
so we proclaim the Good News and share the living message with joy.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Amen.

GREETING

And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL RITE

A Thiarna, déan trócaire

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen

Pat Ahern
All Sing



GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Jean - Paul Lécot
All Sing



COLLECT

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

All Sit

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Gen 18:1-10

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My lord,' he said, 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.'

Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry', he said, 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then, hurrying to the cattle, Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'She is in the tent,' he replied. Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail, and your wife will then have a son.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

**‘Sé an Tiarna m’aoire,
ní bheidh aon ní de dhíth orm**

Fintan O’Carroll



It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my own body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

All Stand

Seinn Aililiú

Traditional



Lk 10:38-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered, 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RITE OF ORDINATION

All Sit

While the hymn to the Holy Spirit is being sung, young people from the diocese carry forward bowls of incense, symbolising our prayer rising to God.

HYMN

Tar anuas, a Spiorad Naoimh

All Sing



Tar anuas, a Spiorad Naoimh, Tar anuas, a Spiorad Naoimh,
Tar anuas, a Spiorad Naoimh is líon ár gcroí ded' ghrásta caomh.

Grásta an Spiorad Naoimh go ngabhaimid
agus insa chreidimh fíor go gcónaímid
I ngaol Dé, i ngrá Dé, i dtoil Dé,
i súil Dé, i rún Dé, i gcúram Dé.

Sampla na bhfíréan go leanaimid
agus i dTeampall Chríosta go bhfanaimid.
I ngaol Dé, i ngrá Dé, i dtoil Dé,
i súil Dé, i rún Dé, i gcúram Dé.

Cuid duine eile nár shantaímid
agus cumann gach duine go gcumhdaímid.
I ngaol Dé, i ngrá Dé, i dtoil Dé,
i súil Dé, i rún Dé, i gcúram Dé.

PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP-ELECT

On behalf of the Church in the Diocese of Kerry, Msgr. Dan O'Riordan presents Ray Browne to the principal ordaining bishop, Archbishop Dermot Clifford. Msgr. O'Riordan asks Archbishop Clifford to ordain this priest, Ray Browne for service as bishop.

READING OF THE APOSTOLIC LETTER

Msgr. O’Riordan reads the official document from Pope Francis appointing Ray Browne as bishop for the Diocese of Kerry.

CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE

*The assembly says: “Thanks be to God” to express its consent. **Thanks be to God***

HOMILY

Fr. Séamus O’Connell breaks open the Word of God for all.

EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Fr. Ray Browne is questioned on his resolve to uphold the Church’s faith and to discharge the duties of bishop.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

All Stand

Archbishop Clifford invites the assembly to pray for our bishop-elect that God will pour grace upon him for the task of providing for the needs of the Church.

LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Oliver Treanor

Let us kneel

All Kneel

*The bishop-elect prostrates himself before God,
as all pray for him in company with the Saints in heaven.*

All you blessed of God before his face, pray for us, pray for us.

Abba life-giving Father we glorify you.

Christ Jesus, only Son of God, have mercy on us,

Holy Spirit, Oil; of Gladness, pour down on these men.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for our brother.

Mary, Mother of Christ’s Priesthood, pray for this man.

Joseph, Guardian of the Church, pray for God’s people.

Michael, Archangel of God, pray for us.

Peter, Rock of the Church, pray for our brother.
Paul, Apostle to the Nations, pray for this man.
Andrew, first to be chosen, pray for God's people.
John, Beloved of the Lord, pray for us.

Mary Magdalene, regenerated by Love, pray for our brother.
James, transfigured by Christ's glory, pray for this man.
Thomas, convinced of Christ Risen, pray for God's people.
Stephen, holy deacon and martyr, pray for us.

Ignatius of Antioch, wheat crushed for the Eucharist, pray for our brother.
Agnes, slain lamb for the Lamb of God, pray for this man.
Augustine, restless for the Lord, pray for God's people.
Cecelia, in harmony with God, pray for us.

Patrick, Apostle to the Irish, pray for our brother.
Brigid, Muire of the Gael, pray for this man.
Columba, dove docile to the Spirit, pray for God's people.
Laurence O'Toole, spiritual reformer in the church, pray for us.

Brendan, navigator and monastic founder, pray for our brother.
Íde, Brigid of Munster, pray for this man.
Gobnait, protector of the humble, pray for God's people.
Erc, bishop and teacher, pray for us.

Francis, humble and joyful, pray for our brother.
Clare, simple and poor, pray for this man.
Dominic, preacher of the Word, pray for God's people.
Ignatius of Loyola, obedient disciple of Christ, pray for us.

Father, keep our chief Pastor Francis
and all the clergy faithful in their ministry,
give peace to all nations.

All Sing
We pray to the Lord.

Lord Jesus, renew in your priests
the grace of their own ordination
and help them to work in unity
with their bishops and with all God's people.

We pray to the Lord.

Holy Spirit, give the people of our diocese and
all the people of Ireland that peace which is yours. **We pray to the Lord.**

Reconcile all of our people, give rest to our dead. **We pray to the Lord.**

Holy Trinity, One God, we adore you. [2]
Bless this chosen one.
Bless this chosen one and make him holy.
Bless this chosen one, make him holy and consecrate him.

Let us Stand *All Stand*

Archbishop Clifford prays:

Lord, be moved by our prayers.
Anoint your servant with the fullness of priestly grace,
and bless him with spiritual power in all its richness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS *All Sit*

The gesture of laying on of hands expresses the invocation, conferral and action of the Holy Spirit, by which Ray Browne is ordained bishop. In this ancient gesture, Ray Browne is empowered to teach, sanctify and exercise pastoral governance in the Church. All the bishops participate to signify his reception into the College of Bishops.

All pray in silence.

BOOK OF THE GOSPELS

Archbishop Clifford places the Book of the Gospels on Ray Browne's head, and then, the two assistant priests hold the Book of the Gospels over him until the Prayer of Consecration is completed.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Archbishop Clifford prays:

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Father of mercies and God of all consolation,
you dwell in heaven, yet look with compassion on all that is humble.
You know all things before they come to be;
by your gracious word you have established the plan of your Church.
From the beginning you chose the descendants of Abraham to be your holy nation.
You established rulers and priests,
and did not leave your sanctuary without ministers to serve you.
From the creation of the world
you have been pleased to be glorified by those whom you have chosen.

All the consecrating bishops, with hands joined, pray:

So now pour out upon this chosen one
that power which is from you,
the governing Spirit whom you gave to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
the Spirit given by him to the holy apostles,
who founded the Church in every place to be your temple
for the unceasing glory and praise of your name.

Archbishop Clifford prays alone:

Father, you know all hearts.
You have chosen your servant for the office of bishop.
May he be a shepherd to your holy flock,
and a high priest blameless in your sight,
ministering to you night and day;
may he always gain the blessing of your favour
and offer the gifts of your holy Church.
Through the Spirit who gives the grace of high priesthood
grant him the power to forgive sins as you have commanded,
to assign ministries as you have decreed,
and to loose every bond
by the authority which you gave to your apostles.

May he be pleasing to you by his gentleness and purity of heart,
presenting a fragrant offering to you,
through Jesus Christ, your Son,
through whom glory and power and honour are yours
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
now and for ever.

Amen

ANOINTING OF BISHOP BROWNE

At St. Mary's Cathedral during Holy Week this year, Bishop Bill Murphy celebrated the Chrism Mass with the laity and the clergy of the Diocese of Kerry.

In this annual liturgy, Holy Chrism is consecrated for use in the celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and of Holy Orders, and the Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar.

A portion of Holy Chrism consecrated at the Chrism Mass is here poured on Bishop Ray, symbolising his participation in the priesthood of Christ and his anointing in the Holy Spirit.

PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK OF THE GOSPELS

Archbishop Clifford presents the Book of the Gospels to Bishop Ray, as a symbol of his duty as bishop to break open the Word of God and announce Christ with courage.

INVESTITURE WITH RING, MITRE, AND CROZIER

Bishop Ray is given a ring, a mitre and a crozier as symbols of the authority and office vested in him as Bishop of Kerry.

The mitre is placed on his head, signifying the Church's commission to pursue holiness.

The ring symbolizes the bishop's nuptial bond with the Church.

The crozier illustrates the ministry of bishop as 'shepherd of the flock'.

The ring, mitre and crozier are brought forward to Archbishop Clifford by members of Bishop Ray's family.

Let us stand

All Stand

SEATING OF THE BISHOP ON THE CATHEDRA

Bishop Ray is led to the seat of his episcopal ministry, the cathedra. It is the placement of the cathedra in St. Mary's, Killarney that designates this church as Cathedral, the mother church for the Diocese of Kerry.

KISS OF PEACE

All Sit

Bishop Ray receives the kiss of peace from the members of the College of Bishops, as the choir sings: "Set your hearts on the higher gifts" (Steve Warner). The kiss of peace symbolises that Bishop Ray as the Bishop of Kerry, is the source and foundation of unity for the People of God in the Diocese of Kerry. Through his communion with the College of Bishops, he manifests the union of the faithful in the Diocese of Kerry with the Church universal.

Bishop Ray is greeted by the leaders of other Christian churches and faith communities. The people of the Diocese of Kerry greet their Bishop through various representatives drawn from the twelve pastoral areas of the diocese, as well as members of the Clergy and Religious.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Instrumental



Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.

All Stand

Prayer over the Offerings

Amen.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And with your spirit.
We lift them up to the Lord.
It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Father of mercies and faithful God.

For you have given us Jesus Christ, your Son,
as our Lord and Redeemer.
He always showed compassion for children and for the poor,
for the sick and for sinners, and he became a neighbour
to the oppressed and the afflicted.

By word and deed he announced to the world
that you are our Father and that you care
for all your sons and daughters.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,
we exalt and bless your name and sing
the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:



All Sing
Seoirse Bodley

HOLY, HOLY.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

You are indeed Holy and to be glorified, O God,
who love the human race
and who always walk with us on the journey of life.
Blessed indeed is your Son, present in our midst
when we are gathered by his love,
and when, as once for the disciples, so now for us,
he opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread.

Therefore, Father most merciful,
we ask that you send forth your Holy Spirit
to sanctify these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may become for us the Body and Blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer,
on the night of the Last Supper,
he took bread and said the blessing,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice, gave you thanks
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND
FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.



The mystery of faith
We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

All Sing
Seoirse Bodley

Therefore, holy Father, as we celebrate the memorial
of Christ your Son, our Saviour,
whom you led through his Passion and Death on the Cross
to the glory of the Resurrection,
and whom you have seated at your right hand,
we proclaim the work of your love until he comes again
and we offer you the Bread of life and the Chalice of blessing.

Look with favour on the oblation of your Church,
in which we show forth the paschal Sacrifice of Christ
that has been handed on to us, and grant that,
by the power of the Spirit of your love,
we may be counted now and until the day of eternity
among the members of your Son,
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.

Bring your Church, O Lord, to perfect faith and charity,
together with Francis, our Pope and Ray, our Bishop
who has been ordained today as shepherd for the Church,
with all Bishops, Priests and Deacons,
and the entire people you have made your own.

Open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters;
inspire in us words and actions to comfort those who
labour and are burdened.

Make us serve them truly, after the example of
Christ and at his command.

And may your Church stand as a living witness
to truth and freedom, to peace and justice,
that all people may be raised up to a new hope.

Remember our brothers and sisters,
who have fallen asleep in the peace of your Christ,
and all the dead, whose faith you alone have known.
Admit them to rejoice in the light of your face,
and in the resurrection give them the fullness of life.

Grant also to us, when our earthly pilgrimage is done,
that we may come to an eternal dwelling place and live with you for ever;
there, in communion with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her spouse, with the Apostles and Martyrs,
with Saint Brendan and with all the Saints,
we shall praise and exalt you through Jesus Christ, your Son.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All Sing

COMMUNION RITE

All Stand

Our Father

SIGN OF PEACE

Dona nobis pacem

Taizé



Lamb of God

Seoirse Bodley

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION HYMNS

All Sing

Take and eat

Michael Joncas

**Take and eat; take and eat:
This is my body given up for you.
Take and drink; take and drink:
This is my blood given up for you.**

Ecce Panis Angelorum

Plain Chant

Magnificat anima mea Dominum

Aidan O'Carroll



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Amen.

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING

Sing to the mountains

Bob Dufford S. J.



Sing to the mountains, sing to the sea.
Raise your voices, lift your hearts.
This is the day the Lord has made.
Let all the earth rejoice.

I will give thanks to you, my Lord.
You have answered my plea.
You have saved my soul from death.
You are my strength and my song.

Holy, holy, holy Lord.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

This is the day the Lord has made.
Let us be glad and rejoice.
Death has lost and all is life.
Sing of the glory of God.

*Bishop Ray is led through the congregation by Archbishop Brown
and Bishop Murphy, offering God's blessing to all.*

Afterwards, Bishop Ray gives an address.

Concluding Rites

SOLEMN BLESSING

O God,
who care for your people with gentleness,
and rule them in love.
endow with the Spirit of wisdom
those to whom you have handed on authority to govern,
that from the flourishing of a holy flock
may come eternal joy for its shepherds. **Amen.**

As in your majestic power
you allot the number of our days
and the measure of our years,
look favourably upon our humble service and
confer on our time the abundance of your peace. **Amen.**

Give a happy outcome to the tasks
that through your grace you have laid upon me,
whom you have raised to the rank of Bishop;
make me pleasing to you in the fulfilment of my duties,
and so guide the hearts of people and pastor,
that the obedience of the flock may never fail the shepherd
nor the care of the shepherd be lacking for the flock. **Amen.**

And may almighty God bless all of you,
who are gathered here,
the Father, + and the Son, + and the Holy + Spirit. **Amen.**

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PROCESSIONAL

All Sing

O Lord my God

Karl Boberg



O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made.
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When, through the woods and forest glades, I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God, his son not sparing,
Sent him to die - I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation
And take me home- what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

Organ Fanfare





WATERFORD & LIMERICK
512-530 AD

OUR DIOCESE

Abbeydorney Waterville
Knocknagoshel Sneem Kilcummin
Cahersiveen Allihies Dingle
Castletownbere Ballyferriter
Ballyheigue Glengarriff Fossa
Castlegregory Glendeligh Milltown
St. John's, Tralce Ballylongford
Kenmare Annascaul Kilgarvan
Killeenterna St. Brendan's, Tralce
Adrigole Moyvane



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. BENEDAN
712-730 AD

OUR DIOCESE

DRUMTARIFFE BALLINSKELLIGS FIRIES

BROSNA CAHERDANIEL TUOSIST

ARDERT CASTLEMAINE BALLYDESMOND

CAUSEWAY DUAGH RATHMORE

BALLYDUNION CASTLEISLAND EYERIES

GLINFLESK BALLYDONOGHUE

TARBERT BALLYMACELLIGOTT BEAUFORT

KILLARNEY BOHERBUE SPA LIXNAW

KILLORGLIN LISTOWEL MILLSTREET

VALENTIA



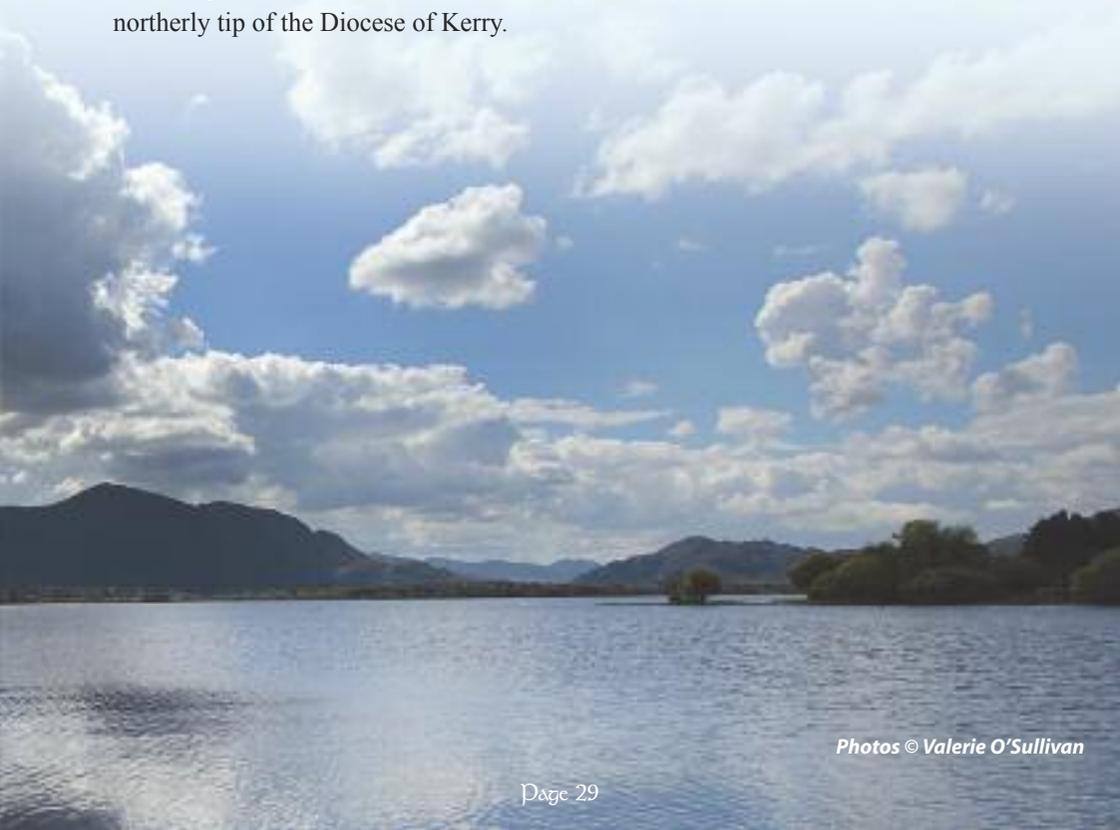
Bishop Ray Browne

Bishop Ray Browne

Bishop Ray Browne was born on the 23rd January 1957 in Magazine Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. He has three sisters and three brothers. Bishop Ray's primary education was in Saint Paul's Mercy Convent School and Dean Kelly National School, both in Athlone, Co. Westmeath. He received his secondary school education at Summerhill College Sligo. His third level seminary studies took him to University College Cork, St. Patrick's College Maynooth and the Irish College in Rome.

He was ordained a priest for Elphin Diocese on the 4th of July, 1982, in the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Athlone. Bishop Ray has worked in many pastoral situations. His first ministry was as a school chaplain. For many years he worked closely with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Sligo. Working at the Galway Marriage Tribunal brought him into close contact with family life, with couples and their children, in their joys and heartbreaks. He has ministered in both Sligo and Galway Cathedrals.

Kilgefin, the parish in which he has most recently served, runs along the Shannon at Ballyleague, Roscommon. The waters that flow by run out to the ocean by the northerly tip of the Diocese of Kerry.



St. Brendan

Bréanainn or Brendan of Ardfert and Clonfert is the patron of the Dioceses of Kerry and Clonfert. The Annals of Inisfallen give him a birthdate of 486 and a death date of 578 AD. Bréanainn's main foundation was at Clonfert in Co. Galway.

The Ciarraige Luachra adopted Bréanainn as their patron, carrying his cult with them along the northern shore of the Dingle peninsula as far as Mount Brandon. Bréanainn was baptised by Bishop Erc who had his base at Tearmonn Eirc in Kilmoyley.

His baptism took place at Tobar na Molt or Wether's Well near Tubrid, Ardfert, which is a popular place of pilgrimage to this very day.



VOYAGE OF ST. BRENDAN 512–530 AD

At a very young age Bréanainn was fostered by St. Íde of Killeedy in Co. Limerick. He then came under the tutelage of Erc, who is said to have ordained Bréanainn as a priest. In the 'Lives of Bréanainn', he is said to have gone on a voyage from his parents' country, a voyage which did not bring him or his companions far. It was only when he built a wooden ship in Connacht that his voyage succeeded in bringing him to the Promised Land. This is one tradition; another is found in the voyage tale most associated with him, the "Voyage of St. Brendan the abbot", a text which most scholars date to around 800 AD. Bréanainn and his companions have many adventures, and we can be fairly sure that Irish monks were voyaging well beyond Irish shores, and it is possible that they reached America.

In the ‘Lives of Bréanainn’, we have him coming back from his voyaging after discovering the Land of Promise and founding other monasteries before he dies at Annaghdown and is brought to Clonfert for burial.

Bréanainn’s story continues to fascinate people to this day, and of course in the 1970’s, Tim Severin’s voyage to Newfoundland showed that a boat like Bréanainn’s was certainly capable of that length of journey. The statue which stands at Fenit sums up much of the rugged character of this sea-farer and great saint. It is for us to follow his gaze and look out to the Desert of the Ocean which still calls us to voyage in search of the Land of God’s promise.

Sceilig Mhichíl

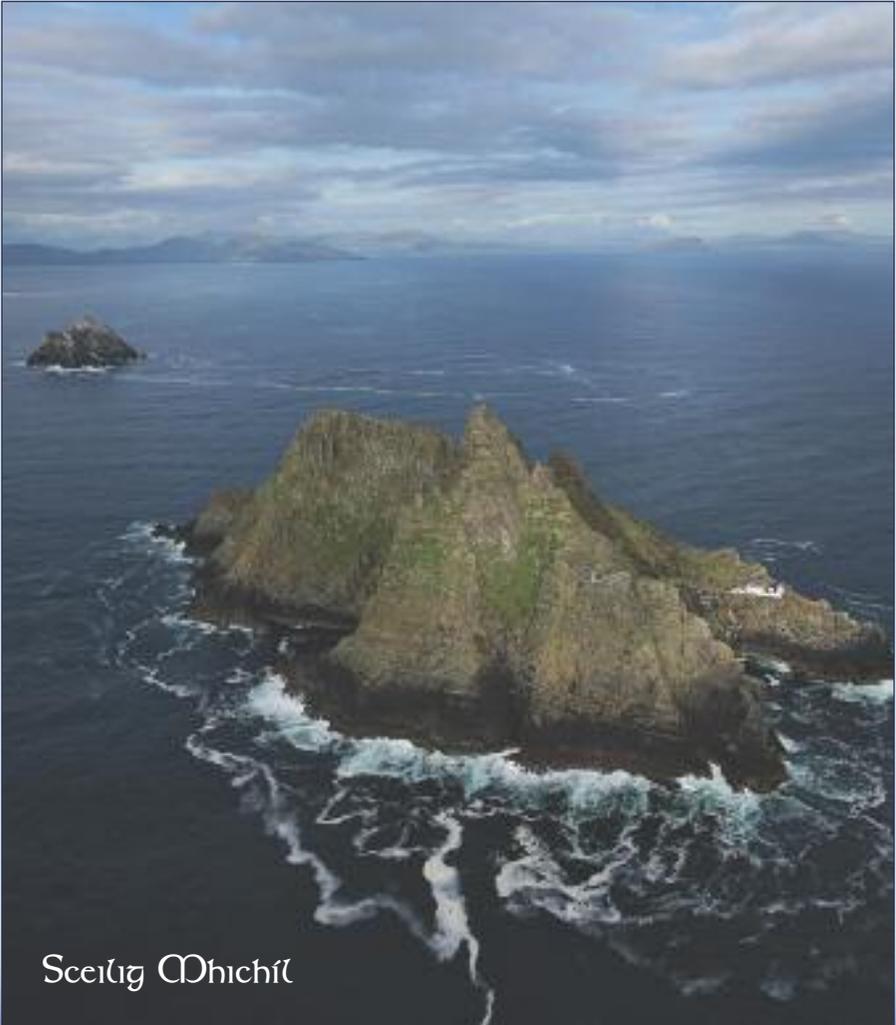
The name, Sceilig Mhichíl, comes from the tradition that St. Michael the Archangel appeared here with all the Heavenly Host of Angels in order to help St. Patrick banish the serpents from Ireland. It ranks with Mont St. Michel in Normandy, St. Michael’s Mount in Cornwall and Monte Gargano in Italy as one of the great high places and coastal sites associated with St. Michael.

Sceilig Mhichíl rises to 714 feet at its highest point. The monastery developed between the sixth – or even the fifth – century and the eighth. Said to have been founded by St. Fionán, the site contains six beehive huts or “clocháin”, two oratories, a number of stone crosses and slabs, a “leacht” like structure and two cisterns with in-built filtration systems and drainage channels. It has been estimated that no more than twelve monks and an abbot lived here at any one time – a number with its own significance. The monks built a series of steps or stairways at three landing points. These are extraordinary feats of achievement in their own right.

On the south peak of the island at 700 feet above sea-level is a hermitage which has been restored in more recent years. As recent scholars have noted: “these walls could have been built only by men who believed that every stone they laid brought them one step closer to God. By building a hermitage at the top of the island, they reached the ultimate goal of eremitic seclusion – a place as near to God as the physical environment would permit”.

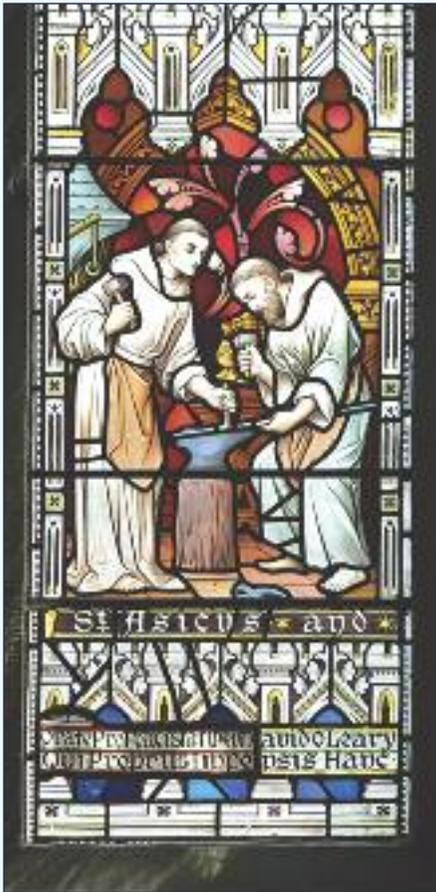
In the third century, Christians in Egypt withdrew to the desert to live lives of prayer, fasting and meditation. Sceilig is our Desert or “Discart”. Eight and a half miles off the South Kerry coast, it is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

In terms of the Christian heritage of Kerry, it is one of our most precious and inspiring places, remaining as it does in an in-between-place, between earth and heaven, between land and the great deep of the ocean, between worldly concerns and those of the spirit. It is an extraordinary place, always remote, often inaccessible, inspiring and always challenging.



St. Asicus

This stained glass window on the right hand side in St. Mary's Cathedral, Killarney portrays St. Asicus and his monks at work. St. Patrick appointed Asicus, a worker in metal, as first abbot-bishop of the church in the Diocese of Elphin in the fifth century. The inclusion of this saint in the stained glass windows of our Cathedral indicates a link between the Diocese of Kerry and the Diocese of Elphin. It is a happy coincidence, as today we ordain a priest from the Diocese of Elphin as our new bishop.



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A Thiarna déan trócaire: Aifreann Phádraig Naofa *Pat Ahern ©*

Gloria: Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes *Jean-Paul Lecot © 2011*

Psalm: ‘Sé an Tiarna m’aoire *Fintan O’Carroll © 2006*

Seinn Aililiú: *Traditional (Arranged by Aidan O’Carroll)*

Tar anuas, a Spioraid Naoimh *Ite O’Donovan ©*

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*Ours to tend
the home shores.*

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