

# Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 15<sup>th</sup> March)

17<sup>th</sup> March



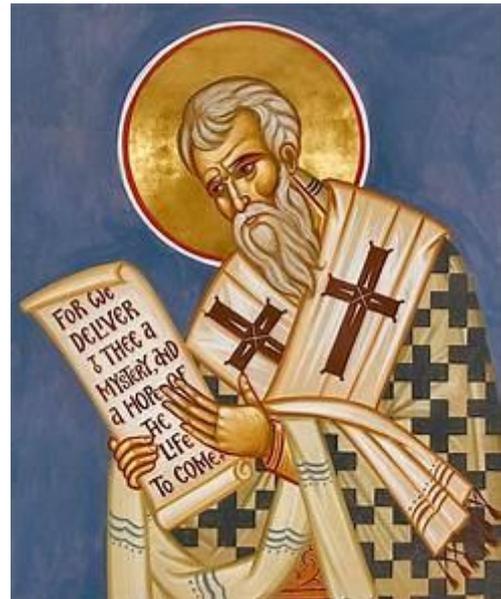
## Saint Patrick - *bishop*

Patrick was from a fifth century Romano-British family with a strong Christian character, though he, himself, was not initially much of a believer. Tradition has it that at about the age of sixteen, he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland, where he was converted to active Christian discipleship. After six years, he returned to Britain where he continued his education. Hostility forced him back to Ireland where he was consecrated bishop. His status as a foreigner made life difficult for him at times. Yet, he was vigorous in mission. All manner of narratives are attached to his life. By the seventh century, he was being revered as a saint.

18<sup>th</sup> March

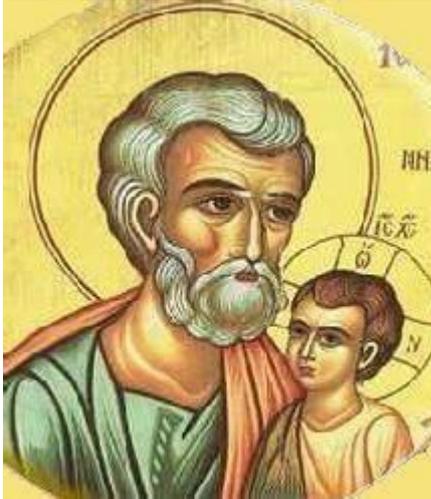
## Saint Cyril of Jerusalem - *doctor of the Church, bishop*

Little is really known about Cyril's life before he became Bishop of Jerusalem. Tradition suggests that he lived from about AD313 until AD386. Some sources suggest that he was ordained deacon in AD335; priest eight years later; and consecrated Bishop in about AD350. It is suggested that he was for a while an Arian (a follower of a virulent heretical phenomenon, which threatened orthodoxy for some decades). However, by the time he became a bishop he had abandoned that, leading to tensions with his metropolitan (= archbishop, more-or-less), who was a leading Arian. Ecclesiastical politics saw him in and out of his see over the years. However, he was confirmed in his see at the Council of Constantinople in AD381, at which he was present. He was a prolific writer; but he is best remembered for his *Mystagogical Catacheses* - a series of lectures given to candidates for Baptism both before and after they had received the Sacrament.



19<sup>th</sup> March

## **Saint Joseph** - *guardian of Jesus, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



The Gospels report that Joseph was commonly considered Jesus' Father (John 6: 42). Christians believe that God was Jesus' Father; and that Joseph, married to Our Lady, was His guardian. We are also told that when he found out that Mary was pregnant, Joseph was initially minded to set his marriage to Mary aside, but that after a dream, he proceeded to care for Jesus (Matthew 1: 18 - 24). He took Mary to Bethlehem where she gave birth to Jesus (Luke 2: 4). Another dream warned Joseph of the coming massacre of the Holy Innocents and Joseph spirited his family away to Egypt (Matthew 2: 13). It seems that he was a carpenter (Matthew 13: 55). He is not mentioned during the accounts of the Passion, Death and Resurrection.