

North Transept

The iconography of the two stained glass windows in the North transept of the church depicts two scenes associated with Saint Patrick. Both windows contain two lights (panes) with trefoil heads (meaning three) supporting a circle of rounded multi-foils. The structure almost resembles that of a 5-petalled flower.

St Patrick's Window - 1

The panel on the left window shows an image of St Patrick arriving in Ireland by boat. According to tradition he returned to Ireland to convert the Irish to Christianity after he had become a Bishop in the early church. We can see in the background a depiction of a round tower. These round towers were used by the early church as places of study, solitude, and contemplation.

St Patrick is dressed in red vestments, he has a grey beard, mitre and crozier. This is a typically modern depiction of Patrick. In reality, he would more likely have worn a tunic, been barefooted and had short hair.

Beside him stands what may be St Brigid (one of the three canonised Irish saints alongside Patrick and Columba) and a monk to her right. The seated figure to the lower right is that of a beggar or sick person wrapped in bandages holding a stick.

The right panel depicts a holy man with a staff and holy book and a local chieftain with his hand outstretched in welcome. Patrick always sought to convert the local chieftains as his followers would then also convert.

The inscription at its base reads '*Presented by the TA Society*'. This may refer to the Temperance Society which was formed in Cork, Ireland in

April 1838 in an effort to encourage Catholics to abstain from alcohol. The circular section above shows an angel with a bell-shaped reliquary in

one hand and a shamrock in the other. Each subsection is abundant with foliage.

St Patrick's Window - 2

The window on the right shows St Patrick holding what appears to be a 3-petalled flower such as the shamrock. The unusual feature is that the shamrock is white and not green. The shamrock symbol is associated with St. Patrick and was used as a teaching tool to explain the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to the pagan Irish.

On the right panel are three figures. The central figure with a crown is the High King Laegaure of Tara, who was converted to Christianity by St Patrick alongside his wife. The old man with a harp is most likely a bard (or entertainer) in the Royal Court of Tara. The inscription reads *'Presented by the Sacred Heart Society'*.

The circular section above shows an angel with a mitre (a modern bishop's headwear) and crozier (the bishop's staff) in one hand and a shamrock in the other. Decorative foliage surrounds the figure.