

# The Mission of Hope

**A**s we mark St Patrick's Day this week, many churches around the country are talking about the impact he had on Ireland, and how we can understand this through the lens of the Five Marks of Mission.

## TELL

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

## TEACH

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

## TEND

To respond to human need by loving service

## TRANSFORM

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

## TREASURE

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

God has created us for relationship. With him, with each other and with creation. When these connections get broken or distorted, injustices take place. In the life of Patrick, this lack of connection resulted in him becoming a slave at 16. For many people around the world today, 37 million of whom are slaves, many more of whom are trafficked or exploited for labour, the effects of our disconnect from God, from each other and from creation is all too evident. They do not flourish, they do not even live, they simply survive.



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**T**ake a minute to think about something in your life that holds you back – maybe fear, maybe a lack of confidence. Talk to God about it and ask him to break it. When we are free, we are better equipped to serve others, although always remember that God can use us, no matter where we are at.



## PRAYER

*Almighty God,  
Who in your providence chose your servant Patrick  
To be the apostle of the Irish people,  
To bring those who were wandering in darkness and error  
To the true light and knowledge of you:  
Grant us so to walk in that light,  
That we may come at last to the light of everlasting life;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and ever. Amen.*

*Thank you God that you are with us wherever we are and wherever we go. Send us now like you sent St Patrick with the desire to open the doors of our life to you and to bring your blessing to others, in name of your Son Jesus. Amen<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>3</sup>Celebrating St Patrick's Radiant Faith: <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/Resources/St-Patrick-Service-Pack.pdf>