



CELTIC SPIRITUALITY

- Has its origins –in the fifth and sixth centuries.
- Is associated with some of the following saints: Patrick, Columba, Columbanus, Aidan and Kevin.
- Is Monastic. In the Celtic Christian world every “church” was monastic.
- Holds a principle of “Sacrament”. A celebration of ordinariness and an “earthed” humanity. They believed that nothing was secular because everything was sacred. Nothing is outside of God’s love and grace.
- Has a focus on Contemplation and Mission. Commitment to Mission (meaning “*being sent/obedience to the task*”) as connecting with people, community on the road, building relationships, exploring spirituality; living in the story and living out the story. For the Community it is engaging in mission out of a context of being in the monastery.
- Holds Hospitality as a core value. Hospitality of Heart. Welcoming God into their hearts each day but also welcoming others because that person could be Christ.
- Is Creation affirming. Love of nature. An awareness of the unity of creation.
- Has a sense of “*Spiritual Warfare*”. Perhaps coming from their Druidic, pagan culture they had a very real sense of the spiritual world. They understood spiritual warfare as an everyday reality – the Sign of Cross was Trinity affirming and Cross exalting. A saving sign of protection to keep away evil, not superstition but a statement of fact.





- Holds Trinitarian Belief as core. The emphasis on the Trinity cannot be understated. It's always good to remind ourselves as Christians that Community began in the heart of God. That the self-sufficient God who is love, is Community within Himself. And that all Community flows from this.
- Includes a love of Learning. A deep love of the Scriptures as God's memory book of relationships and encounter.
- Has an appreciation of time as sacred. Time was to be used wisely and well. They understood that when God created time, he made plenty of it.



Notes



GLENDALOUGH: A UNIQUE PLACE

*This sacred spot
Of sounds, songs and stories.
A refuge of souls,
A well of strength,
A sense of God.*

Glendalough, a valley of two lakes is sometimes referred to as the jewel in the heart of the Wicklow Mountains. There is something enchanting about it that has attracted people for hundreds of years. It is the beauty of the scenery and the wonderful walks within the valley and all over the mountains? Could it be a fascination with the old ruins of the monastery with all their memories and secrets? Perhaps it is just one of those special places where there is a sense that the dividing line between this world and otherworld is almost transparent. It is without doubt a soulful place.

The early Christian monks who built the monastery were well aware of their environment of the valley breathed a positive energy. They were very conscious of natural forces when identifying locations for their settlements and built the monastery where the valleys and river meet. In fact, the site of the old monastery where the valleys and rivers meet. In fact, the site of the meeting place of three valleys. It is not surprising the place became a focal point for so many spiritual journeys and people felt at home with its peaceful surroundings.

Glendalough is an ideal place to focus on the soul journey. The soul implies the sacred heart of life, which human beings have an orientation to consciously seek. Soul is a mysterious quality or way of being that involves value, belief, desire, inspiration, longing and spiritual hunger. In the human person it is expressed through awareness, sensitivity, creativity and wonder.

*I journey outward
Leaving home;
A step forward
Into newness;
A step
Into the unknown.*

By Liam Lacey





Notes

A series of horizontal lines for writing notes.