ON



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE IRELAND, UK AND FRANCE FOOTBALL TOUR





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COVER Back left: Blake Scott. Dan Lalor. Dan Butler (St Kilda FC). Flynn Loader and Harry Sharp (Brisbane FC) during the Tour of 2013.

EDITOR Katie Spurgo ADVERTISING Lorrie Liston DESIGN Sass + Design



OPPORTUNITY Principal Steven O'Connor is delighted the Ireland Tour can be offered again to students after it was halted due to Covid-19.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

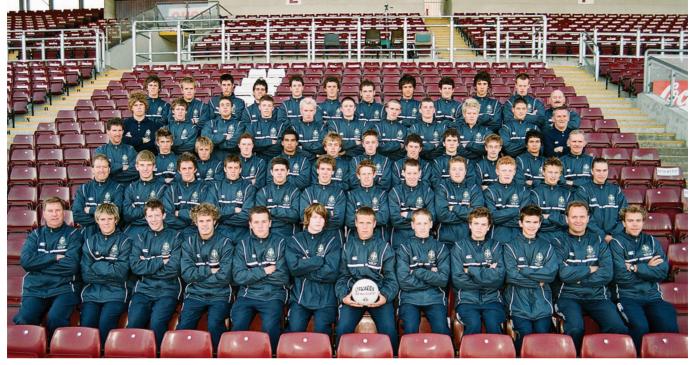
ne of the many great things about a school like St Patrick's is the amazing opportunity for students to broaden their horizons and travel abroad. The College's triennial trip to Ireland and the UK commenced in 2007. offering students a wonderful set of experiences around culture, history and sport.

In 2024, we add a side trip to the Western Front in Belgium and France, which I'm sure will be a poignant and memorable experience. We will visit a number of key sites on the Western Front, including The Victoria School and the Australian Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux — where we will visit some of the graves of our fallen Old Collegians — and observe the evening Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gates

A lot of hard work goes into organising a trip like this and I thank all those involved in providing this wonderful opportunity to our students. In particular, I thank the staff who are enabling this experience by attending the trip during their break. Special thanks to our Football Coordinator Howard Clark and Lifestyle Travel managing director Leonie Spencer for the incredible work they did in establishing the tour and for ensuring this wonderful opportunity continues to be a significant offering for the College.

STEVEN O'CONNOR

Principal



TRAILBLAZERS The inaugural 2007 tour party featured 35 students and six staff members.

REALISING A DREAM

ESTABLISHED IN 2007, THE IRELAND EXPERIENCE IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A FOOTBALL TOUR

By SPC Football Coordinator

HOWARD CLARK with Paul Nolan

EW. if any. experiences available to students at St Patrick's College better exemplify the pillars of Faith. Tradition. Excellence and Joy than the triennial Football Tour of Ireland.

First conceived as part of a strategic review in the early 2000s into all aspects of the College's football program, the tour was the brainchild of Director of Football and 1st XVIII coach Howard Clark

in conjunction with Director of Community and Boarding Mark Waddington, Principal Dr Peter Casey and Leonie Spencer (Lifestyle Travel) whose son James was the 2007 College Vice-Captain and who was a member of the College Board at this time.

The inaugural tour of Ireland and London departed our shores in 2007 featuring 35 students and six staff and has been replicated every three years since. Covid notwithstanding. Since the inaugural tour in 2007, the



VISIONARY Howard Clark.

numbers have increased to 50 students and eight staff with an accompanying parent tour.

For the students from St Patrick's College, the tour is much more than a football tour, rather it is a cultural phenomenon which embraces each of the aforementioned pillars.

FAITH Students have the opportunity to visit schools with whom they share the College's Blessed Edmund Rice traditions as well as visit historical sites significant to the formation and development of St Patrick's College, including the burial sites of Blessed Edmund Rice, his first school in Waterford and the burial site of famous College Headmaster Br Mark McCarthy.

TRADITION The travelling party have the opportunity to explore the full Irish experience. harking back to the very earliest foundations of the College and its unbreakable links to the Christian brothers and the spirit of the Shamrock. The tour group will visit iconic famous Irish landmarks including the celebrated Blarney Castle, Croke Park, Callan. Kilkenny and Galway as well as attending a hurling match on Easter Sunday. The 2024 touring party are fortunate to have a new aspect of the experience with an added and deepened cultural integrity component being a two-day stopover in France, visiting key historical sites along the Western Front.

EXCELLENCE Players will have the opportunity to showcase their football talents in a series of international rules games in

Dublin. Galway. Maghera (Northern Ireland) against Irish boys their own age. The students will also have the opportunity to bond with their classmates and their staff in a completely new and foreign environment which helps build excellent friendships for life.

JOY Along with the Irish leg of the Journey, the tour group will have three days in England where they will visit Lords. Wimbledon, Chelsea Football Club as well as taking in a show at the Piccadilly Theatre on London's famous 'West End'. Other sites to be visited include the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, and Buckingham Palace. The memories forged here will last a lifetime. For the first time. the touring party will catch the Furostar train to Lille, France for an incredible two-day tour of the World War I battlefields. visiting such historical sites as the Australian Cobber Memorial in Fromelles Village, France, the Brooding Soldier, the Langemarck Germand Cemetery, whilst attending the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Boulevard.

This is so, so much more than a football tour. It is literally the trip of a lifetime for our students.

It is a unique opportunity for students to experience first-hand that they are part of something much bigger - a world-wide community of people committed to the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice who believed. and demonstrated through his lifetime works, that boys could be liberated and inspired to do great deeds through education. What an education these students are receiving - the chance to play a game they love whilst taking in some of the world's greatest sights and experiencing a culture that is integrally linked to so many families within the College and the Ballarat region.

The trip is consistent with the coaching philosophy of 'educating the whole person' thus ensuring that they leave the College's football program with skills and experiences that will stand them in good stead for the remainder of their lives.



LIFETIME EXPERIENCE The triennial Ireland Tour is a highlight of St Patrick's renowned Football program.

ITINERARY

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE IRELAND, UK AND FRANCE FOOTBALL TOUR, 2024



A GOOD READ The Old Library at Trinity College houses the world-famous Book of Kells.

TUESDAY MARCH 26

Depart SPC at approx. 5:00pm on Bus to Melbourne Airport.

Depart Melbourne at 10:30pm with Emirates. Flight Number EK407.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 27

Arrive Dubai at 5:40am.

Depart Dubai at 7:05am with Emirates. Flight Number EK161 Arrive Dublin at 11:20am

After clearing immigration and customs, proceed to the arrival's hall. You will be met by a guide who will escort you to your Coach for transfer to your accommodation where you will stay 3 nights at Jacobs Inn Dublin. In the afternoon there will be a light training.

HURSDAY
MARCH
28

Enoy breakfast at your accommodation before heading off on a morning walking tour learning about the history of the 1916 Easter uprising.

In the afternoon, visit the famous Croke Park followed by The Book of Kells at Trinity College.

FRIDAY MARCH 29

Start with breakfast before the first match of the Tour.

MATCH 1

SPC v St Aidan's 11am, Abbotstown, Dublin

SATURDAY MARCH

Begin the day with breakfast before departing Dublin for Cork, via Callan & Waterford where vou will stay 2 nights at Gabriel House.

On the way you will visit the Birthplace of Blessed Edmund Rice at Callan and then his tomb and the Edmund Rice Museum at Mt. Sion Waterford

SUNDAY MARCH

Begin today with breakfast followed by a short trip to Blarney Castle to kiss the Blarney Stone.

MONDAY APRIL

After breakfast, depart for a full day of sightseeing on the way to Galway. Visit the picturesque village of Adare, followed by The Cliffs of Moher, and finally drive through the Burren into Galway where you will stay 2 nights at Kinlay Hostel.

TUESDAY APRIL

Start with breakfast this morning before the third match of the Tour.

MATCH 2

SPC v Galway Academy 1 11am, GAA Training Facility, Loch George County, Galway

MATCH 3

SPC v Galway Academy 2 11am. GAA Training Facility. Loch George County, Galway

WEDNESDAY APRII

Today begins with an early breakfast before driving to Northern Ireland

Late morning arrival will bring you to Derry where you will experience a walking tour of the old walls and murals. After lunch, drive through the Sperrin Mountains to the Maghera area where you will stay 2 nights in a Home Stay.

THURSDAY APRIL

This morning the fourth match of the tour will be played against St Patrick's College Maghera for the Tri-Annual McGuigan Cup.

MATCH 4

McGuigan Cup - SPC v St Patrick's Maghera 10am, 4G Pitch, Maghera

MATCH 5

SPV v Derry U16 4pm, Owenburg



SCENIC The Cliffs of Moher.



STREET ART A mural at Derry, Northern Ireland



HOTSPOT The London Eye. also known as the Millennium Wheel, offers unparalleled views of the city.

FRIDAY APRIL

This morning you will travel to the world heritage listed Giants Causeway.

Continue to Belfast where you will stay 1 night at Ramada by Wyndham Belfast and visit the Titanic Museum and be guided through the Belfast Murals.

SATURDAY APRIL 6

Depart Belfast at 9:40am with British Airways. Flight Number BA1423 Arrive London at 11:05am.

Proceed to the arrival's hall where you will be met by a guide who will escort you to your Coach for transfer to your accommodation where you will stay 3 nights at Premier Inn London St Pancras.

\$13 SUNDAY APRIL 7

This morning you will attend Mass at Westminster Cathedral before visiting the Tower of London. Following this. enjoy an afternoon of sightseeing to famous places including Buckingham Palace. Trafalgar Square. Big Ben and the London Eye. This evening, attend the West End Theatres to watch Back to the Future.

MONDAY APRIL 8

After breakfast, travel to the home of cricket, Lord's, for a private tour before enjoying some general sightseeing in London. This evening, take in the amazing atmosphere of an English Premier League game between Tottenham Hot Spur and Nottingham Forest.

TUESDAY APRIL 9

After breakfast, catch the Eurostar train to Lille. France for an incredible 2- day tour of the World War 1 battlefields.

Drive to Fromelles village and visit The Museum, the new CWGC Pheasant Wood, and VC Corner and Australian Cobber Memorial.

Then drive to Plugstreet to visit the Plugstreet Experience (excellent introduction to the Great War) and the Christmas Truce site. Check into your accommodation where you will stay 2 nights at Peace Village.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10

Visit of the Ypres Salient starting with The Pool of Peace. Hill 60. Hooge Crater. Polygon Wood. Tyne Cot Cemetery. The Brooding Soldier. Langemarck Germand Cemetery. ending the day tour in Ypres before attending the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.

SATURDAY APRIL 13

Arrive Melbourne at 5:30am.

Bus to leave Melbourne Airport back to SPC approximately 9:00am.

THURSDAY APRIL 11

This morning visit the Somme Battlefield including Pozières

& Villers-Bretonneux village: Victoria School & Museum -Villers-Bretonneux Cemetery & Australian Memorial to the Missing and the Sir John Monash Centre.

Depart at 5:00pm to arrive at 18:30 at CDG Airport.

Depart Paris at 9:55pm with Emirates. Flight Number EK76.

FRIDAY APRIL

Arrive Dubai at 6:35am.

Depart Dubai at 10:05am with Emirates. Flight Number EK406.



MUST SEE The Plugstreet Experience memorial.



COMMEMORATE The Villers-Bretonneux
Australian National Memorial.



DREAM TEAM The 2013 tour party.



GRAND STAND: Dan (left) with Jackson Carrick and Bryson McDougall at Wembley Stadium.



SPC ALUMNUS Dan Butler.

TOUR TO CHERISH

OLD COLLEGIAN AND AFL PLAYER
DAN BUTLER REFLECTS ON HIS
2013 EXPERIENCE

THE opportunity to travel to Europe and experience Ireland. London and Paris was one of the greatest experiences of my life and without a doubt my most cherished time whilst at SPC.

Being able to jet across the other side of the world with 50 of your mates was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I have so many great memories from the trip.

Flying into Dublin and playing a game of Gaelic against a school then being sent out to separate families for a true Irish experience was a highlight for me. The family I stayed with were very accommodating.

The second family I stayed with in Maghera outside Derry was also a great experience, being able to stay with Liam Duggan and Jake Ancrum with a family in country Ireland was a highlight of our trip and we still have kept in contact with them to this day.

The London and Paris parts of the trip were amazing and a great way to finish off an unforgettable trip.

Touring the streets of London and going to a Premier League game was great fun and all the boys had a great time joining in the chants.

Even though a few boys got pickpocketed in Paris. the sightseeing and French culture was an eye-opener.

I look back on this trip with nothing but great memories and feel so lucky to have been a part of it.

DAN BUTLER

SPC 2009 - 2014





GREAT ADVENTURE Michael Edgar, front left, has treasured memories of the 2007 tour.

TRIP OF A LIFETIME

FORMER SPC PARENT MICHAEL EDGAR SHARES HIS MEMORIES OF THE INAUGURAL TOUR

//HAT began as a dream ${\sf V}$ from the Legendary football coach Howard Clark back in 2006. became a reality for 50 young men in 2007 and is now one of the most important and cherished adventures for students of St Patrick's College.

Those fortunate enough to make the Journey experience bonds with classmates, teammates, teachers and most importantly for me. father-son bonds, which contribute to amazing, lifelong memories.

International travel is a pipe dream for many, but with hard work, fundraising events and

generous donations, this fantastic group were able to travel to Ireland. Here, we embraced Irish culture, the warm welcoming characteristics of the locals and the chance to challenge the skills of Gaelic football. Not to forget the Edmund Rice experience and the inherent history that represents St Patrick's College.

This Journey without doubt will leave a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to participate, from students, teachers and families that have the opportunity to experience the tour.

To share this privilege with such

an amazing group of people, to run the streets of Irish cities and London, listening to the feedback from the young men and their day's adventures (good, bad and sometimes indifferent), as well as a Guinness here and there all added to the excitement.

For all who travel this year. embrace the Journey, cherish every moment and ensure everyone you meet has the best Irish smile.

Have fun and stay safe. God speed. **

MICHAEL EDGAR

Touring Parent

TOURING PARTY

READY FOR ADVENTURE



BACK ROW (LEFT) Howard Clark, Steven O'Connor, Dean Harten, Billy Twaits, Nathan Jolly, Hunter Tudbull, Noah Quick, Patrick O'Brien, Riley Westlake, Lachlan Martin, Joseph Rabbette, Nedd Bennett, James Parkinson, Lincoln Koliba, Jake Abrams, Toby Dixon, Brendan Monaghan, Deacon Towk, Henry Faulkner, Declan Clark, Jason Lappin.

MIDDLE ROW (LEFT) Cody Salmon, Zac Dransman, Jack McCann, Eli Hollway, Angus Rothe, Hamish Fanning, Tom Foster, Archie Todd, Oliver Daykin, Hunter Vansomeren, Archie Eichler, Tom O'Donohue, Peter Ryan.

FRONT ROW (LEFT) Zavier Nunn. Paddy Mihaljevic. Baxter Horsburgh. Noah Svanosio. Cooper Battye, Kade Hilton. Paterson Meneely, Lachlan Pritchard. Hunter Knight. Nic Salter, Will Palmer, Max Kinniburgh, Jack Cleary, Sam Duggan, Noah Buttler, John Richards. Nathan Geoghan. Carly Twaits.

Absent: Steven Biggin

TOUR LEADERS

WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK THE FOLLOWING STAFF FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE ON TOUR.



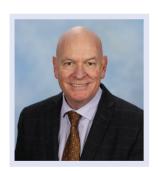
TOUR MANAGER Steven O'Connor



1ST XVIII COACH Jason Lappin



2ND XVIII COACH Steve Biggin



LOGISTICS/ **PROPERTY** Peter Ryan



ASSISTANT COACH/ TOUR MANAGER John Richards



MEDICAL OFFICER/ PROPERTY ASSISTANT Nathan Geaghan



ASSISTANT TOUR MANAGER/ COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Carly Twaits

SPECIAL THANKS

We express our gratitude to Old Collegians Dr Charlie Flynn (Chief Medical Officer) and Dr Stephen McMahon (Group doctor) for volunteering their time to support our Tour.

PLAYER PROFILES

MEET THE ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE TOURING TEAM OF 2024



JAKE ABRAMS
D.O.B: 15/1/2008
Year Level: 11
Club: North Ballarat
Preferred Position: CHB



ARCHIE EICHLER

D.O.B: 04/05/2006

Year Level: 12
Club: Buninyong
Preferred Position: Wing



ANGUS ROTHE
D.O.B: 11/09/2006
Year Level: 12
Club: Past Redan player.
Preferred Position: Wing



DEACON TOWK
D.O.B: 13/10/2007
Year Level: 11
Club: Lake Wendouree
Preferred Position: CHB/FB



NOAH SVANOSIO

D.O.B: 9/11/2006
 Year Level: 11

Club: North Ballarat College
 Preferred Position:
 RHF or RFP



HAMISH MCNAMARA
D.O.B: 18/12/2006
Year Level: 11
Club: Redan
Preferred Position: FF/CHF



CAMPBELL LLOYD

D.O.B: 24/2/2006
 Year Level: 12
 Club: Ballarat Swans
Preferred Position: Wing, MID



HUNTER VANSOMEREN
D.O.B: 14/04/2008
Year Level: 10
Club: Hamilton Kangaroos
Preferred Position:
MID. Small FWD



HUNTER KNIGHT

D.O.B: 23/04/2008

Year Level: 10

Club: Darley

Preferred Position: Wing



NOAH BUTTLER
D.O.B: 20/05/2008
Year Level: Year 10
Club: Redan
Preferred Position: Wing



COOPER BATTYE

D.O.B: 05:09/2007

Year Level: 11

Local club: Melton Bloods

Preferred Position:

Midfield



SAM DUGGAN
D.O.B: 07/07/2006
Year Level: 12
Club: Springbank
Preferred Position:
Half Back



JACK MCCANN
D.O.B: 24/04/2006
Year Level: 12
Club: East Point
Preferred Position: Half Back



JACK CLEARY
D.O.B: 31/05/2007
Year Level: 11
Club: Newlyn
Preferred Position:
Back Flank/Wing



KADE HILTON

D.O.B: 09/09/2007

Year Level: 11

Club: Bacchus Marsh

Preferred Position: MID/Small FWD



PATRICK MIHALJEVIC

D.O.B: 28/11/07
Year Level: 11
Club: East Point
Preferred Position: Ruck Rover



RILEY WESTLAKE
D.O.B: 17/10/2006
Year Level: 12
Club: South Colac
Preferred Position: MID



HUNTER TUDBALL
D.O.B: 18/04/2007
Year Level: 11
Club: Bacchus Marsh
Preferred Position:
CHB/Wing



NEDD BENNETT

D.O.B: 19/10/2006
Year Level: 12
Home club: East Point/Rebels
Preferred Position: Ruck Rover



PADDY O'BRIEN

D.O.B: 3/06/2006

Year Level: 12
Club: Ballarat Swans
Preferred Position: CHB



D.O.B: 08/12/2006
Year Level: 12
Club: Melton South
Preferred Position:
FWD, Flank/Wing



TOM O'DONOHUE

D.O.B:: 22/09/2007
 Year Level: 11
 Club: East point
Preferred Position: Wing



NOAH QUICK

D.O.B: 11/10/2006

Year Level: 12
Club: Bungaree
Preferred Position: Half Back



NIC SALTER
D.O.B: 02/11/2006
Year Level: 12
Club: East Point
Preferred Position:
Forward pocket



LACHIE MARTIN

D.O.B: 25/01/2007

Year Level: 12

Club: Redan

Preferred Position: CHF/CHB



DEAN HARTEN
D.O.B: 29/01/2007
Year Level: 12
Club: Redan
Preferred Position:
MID/Half Back



CODY SALMON
D.O.B: 30/01/2007
Year Level: 12
Club: Bacchus Marsh
Preferred Position:
Wing/HFF



DECLAN CLARK

DOB:29/03/2007
Year Level: 11
Club: Lake Wendouree
Preferred Position:
MID/Half Back



NATHAN JOLLY D.O.B: 21/08/2006 Year Level: 12 Club: North Ballarat Preferred Position: CHF



PATERSON MENEELY D.O.B: 02/01/2007 Year Level: 12 Club: Waubra



LINCOLN KOLIBA D.O.B: 05/02/2007 Year Level: 11 Club: Lake Wendouree/ Rebels Preferred Position: Back Pocket Preferred Position: MID/FWD



JAMES PARKINSON D.O.B: 07/12/2006 Year Level: 12 Club: Lake Wendouree Preferred Position: Foward



ZAC DRANSMAN D.O.B: 16/05/2006 Year Level: 12 Club: Bacchus Marsh Preferred Position: Half Back Flank



BRENDAN MONAGHAN D.O.B: 18/01/2008 Year Level: 11 Club: Daylesford Football Club Preferred Position: Ruck, CHB



TOM FOSTER D.O.B: 24/5/2008 Year Level: 10 Club: Koroit Saints Preferred Position: Mid/Wing



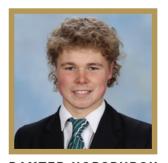
OLIVER DAYKIN D.O.B: 31/08/2008 Year Level: 10 Club: Redan Preferred Position: Forward



ELI HOLLOWAY D.O.B: 17/01/2006 Year Level: 12 Club: Ballarat Swans Preferred Position: CHB/MID



WILL PALMER D.O.B: 03/04/2008 Year Level: 10 Club: North Ballarat Preferred Position: CHB/Wing



BAXTER HORSBURGH D.O.B: 09/03/2007 Year Level: 11 Club: North Ballarat Preferred Position: MID/Small FWD



HENRY FAULKNER D.O.B: 18/04/2007 Year Level: 11 Club: North Ballarat Preferred Position: Wing

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BILLY TWAITS

D.O.B: 20/ 04/2007
Year Level: 11
Club: Springbank
Preferred Position: CHF/HFF



JOE RABBETTE

D.O.B: 13/04/2006

Year Level: 12

Club: Irrewarra

Preferred Position: Forward



MAX KINNIBURGH
D.O.B: 04/07/2008
Year Level: 10
Club: Springbank Tigers
Preferred Position:
FWD/Mid/Wing



KOLBY STRYBOSCH

DOB: 23/08/2006

Year Level: 12
Club: Ballarat swans
Preferred Position: HB/CHB



ARCHIE TODD

D.O.B: 05/04/2008
Year Level: 10

Club: Lake Wendouree
Preferred Position:
Wing/B Flank



ZAC EVANS
D.O.B 15/09/2007
Year Level: 11
Club: East Point
Preferred Position:
CHB/HB/MID/CHF



ZAVIER NUNN
DOB: 15/01/2007
Year Level: 11
Club: North Ballarat
Preferred Position: Wing



HAMISH FANNING
D.O.B: 09/02/2007
Year Level: 11
Club: East Point
Preferred Position: CHB



SHANNON TAYLOR

D.O.B: 20/05/2007
Year Level: 11
Club: Redan
Preferred Position:
FWD Pocket/Wing



TOBY DIXON

D.O.B: 31/03/2008
 Year Level: 10
 Club: Ballarat Swans
Preferred Position: CHF



10 COMMONIRISH PHRASES

LEARN THE LINGO OF THE IRISH. TO BE SURE.



YOUR OUL FELLA /

These terms refer to your father and your mother respectively



SURE LOOK IT

Commonly used and fits in after any sentence meaning we'll carry on or get on with things



GO WAY OUTTA THAT

An expression of disbelief or refusal



SLEEVEN

A sleeven is a sly or underhanded person



AWFUL GOOD

In Ireland awful can also mean very as in "the weather was awful good"



HAPPY OUT

Content in your current surroundings



Was it good?



A WHALE OF A TIME

A really good time



The bathroom



DONKEYS YEARS

Refers to an awful lot of years

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

STUDENTS SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE TOUR'S KEY ATTRACTIONS

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

Trinity College Dublin was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I. making it one of the oldest universities in Europe. Its establishment played a crucial role in the development of Dublin as a centre of learning during the Renaissance period.

Trinity College Dublin boasts a rich history dating back to its foundation. This historical legacy is evident in its architecture. traditions, and academic reputation. Trinity College is renowned for its academic excellence and is consistently ranked among the top universities globally.

'The Ghost of the Man in the Iron Mask' is one of the most famous myths associated with Trinity College. Legend has it that the ghost of a former scholar, who was imprisoned in an iron mask, haunts the College's corridors, particularly the Rubrics building. Despite no historical evidence supporting this claim, it remains a popular ghost story among students and locals.

Perhaps one of the most compelling reasons to visit Trinity College is to see the historic Book of Kells. Housed within the College library, this ancient illuminated manuscript dates back to the ninth century and is a masterpiece of medieval artistry. Viewing the intricately decorated pages of the Book of Kells offers a glimpse into Ireland's early Christian heritage and artistic achievements.

CRUCIAL VIKING HUB

Dublin was a vital hub for Vikings in Ireland and quickly became one of their primary bases outside Scandinavia. playing a pivotal role in their expansion and influence beyond their homelands.

The Vikings strategically built a fortified settlement along the banks of the River Liffey (the main river in Dublin), laying the foundation for what would grow into the bustling city of Dublin. This location provided them with easy access to maritime trade routes and facilitated their economic and military endeavours.

Dublin thrived under Viking rule. thanks to their introduction of advanced ship-building techniques and efficient trade networks. The city emerged as a bustling

commercial centre, attracting merchants from across Europe and facilitating the exchange of goods and ideas. Dublin's location by the sea allowed Vikings to interact with diverse cultures, leading to a rich exchange of ideas, customs, and traditions. This cultural fusion left a lasting impact on Dublin's identity and contributed to its vibrant and cosmopolitan character.

Viking Dublin witnessed various historical events, including power struggles and conflicts for control between Vikings and native Irish rulers. Influential leaders like Olaf the White and his descendants played significant roles in shaping Dublin's political landscape and establishing dynastic rule over the city.

CROKE PARK

Croke Park, named after
Archbishop Thomas Croke, is
Ireland's national stadium and is
the headquarters of the Gaelic
Athletic Association (GAA). Since
1891, Croke Park has been used
by the GAA to host several Gaelic
sports including the annual AllIreland in Gaelic football and



SERENE The Edmund Rice Heritage Centre at Mt Sion features a circular chapel.

hurling.

Croke Park holds an astonishing 82,000 spectators at full capacity claiming it's rightful spot as the biggest stadium in Ireland and third largest in Europe. The 'Croker', as referred to by locals, has been a host to not only some of the biggest Irish sporting events but also to some of the largest musicians in the world such as U2. Beyonce and The Rolling Stones. Croke Park is renowned for its electric atmosphere during matches with fans creating an unforgettable experience.

Aside from the sporting and music events held at Croke park. one specific event holds greater significance - Bloody Sunday. During the early hours of 21

November 1920, a group of IRA members killed 15 men in a series of coordinated attacks across Dublin.

British forces later opened fire on the crowd attending a Gaelic football match at Croke Park, believing IRA members fled into the crowd.Fourteen people were killed and up to 60 injured, including Tipperary captain Michael Hogan, displaying the brutality and lack of discipline from the British forces.

CALLAN: BIRTHPLACE OF BLESSED EDMUND RICE

Blessed Edmund Rice was a very powerful man who was the founder of two religious institutes being the Christian brothers and Presentation brothers. Born in a village called Callan. Blessed Edmund Rice was a father. husband, philanthropist, educator and visionary.

There is great history in the name of the town. Callan in Irish is Callainn. This comes from the High King of Ireland. Niall Caille, who was drowned while trying to cross the river with his army. The town has historical landmarks too. such as its Abbey. Churches. Town Hall. Workhouse and Edmund Rice Heritage Centre.

WATERFORD

Waterford is a city in south-eastern Ireland and is one of Ireland's oldest cities. It has a rich history that dates back over 1000 years and includes Viking settlement.

One common story often >





STRIKING: The Burren and O'Brien's Tower at the Cliffs of Moher.

◀ recounted about Waterford is the humble beginnings of the Christian Brothers by Edmund Rice. a respected and successful businessman from the area. Following the death of his wife. Edmund felt called to dedicate his life to helping the poor and educating youth, leading to the establishment of the Christian Brothers and the Presentation
Brothers and Sisters.

Edmund Rice established his first school in Waterford to educate the local boys and still exists today. A number of other schools were also established by the Christian Brothers and the Presentation Sisters in and around Waterford, which have played a crucial role in providing education to generations of students.

Waterford connects to St Patrick's College Ballarat as the school was run by the Christian Brothers, which are associated with Edmund Rice's educational mission. Without Edmund Rice. St Patrick's College would not exist or would be a very different school to what it is today.

THE BURREN

The Burren in County Clare, in the west of Ireland, is known for its striking limestone landscape with vast pavements and distinctive crevice patterns. Despite its tough appearance, the region supports diverse flora, including rare orchids, thanks to the alkaline soil between limestone slabs.

The Burren, which means 'rocky district', is a 'glaciokast' landscape. This means it was formed by soluble rock dissolution, which creates unique geological features like caves, sinkholes, and underground rivers. It extends about 530 kilometres and covers most of the top right part of Ireland.

Poulnabrone Dolmen, a Neolithic portal tomb, is a notable historical

site in the Burren, offering insight into its ancient past. The area also boasts ring forts, ancient churches, and archaeological remnants reflecting its rich human history.

The Burren is internationally famous for the geology that formed the landscape, its long history of human settlement, traditional farming methods and impressive floral and animal diversity. It is also home to the Cliffs of Moher which are a key piece of Ireland's beauty.

CLIFFS OF MOHER

The Cliffs of Moher were formed more than 300 million years ago. and have a picturesque view of the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the rocky Burren on the other.

Named after an old fort called Mothar, the spectacular cliffs stretch along the coast for about 14 kilometres and are more than 210 metres tall.

The Cliffs of Moher are Ireland's second most popular attraction for tourists, with about 1.1 million people visiting each year.

Legend has it that a sea witch. called Mal of Malbay fell in love, chased her beau across Ireland and then met her demise at the cliffs.

Hag's Head is located at the southern end of the Cliffs – where there's an unusual rock formation that looks like a woman's head looking out over the Atlantic Ocean

At Hag's Head is Moher Tower. a tower that stands in ruin but still serves as a place of refuge for visitors who get caught in unexpectedly strong winds on the cliffs

The cliffs are also home to O'Brien's Tower, a round stone tower built by Sir Cornelius O'Brien in 1835 that stands near the highest point of the cliffs and enjoys views of the coastline and the Aran Islands.

GALWAY

Galway, located on the west coast of Ireland, holds a notable cultural and historical significance. It is known for its vibrant arts scene, rich heritage, and stunning natural landscapes. Historically. Galway was an energetic medieval trading port and has retained much of its old-world charm, with cobblestone streets and wellpreserved architecture. Culturally, it is renowned for its traditional Irish music, lively festivals, and strong Gaelic heritage, making it a captivating destination for visitors from around the world.

Galway's city centre is

characterised by colourful buildings. busy pubs. and lively street performers. creating a vibrant atmosphere. Nearby. the rugged Connemara region offers breathtaking scenery. with mountains. lakes, and coastal vistas providing many opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking. fishing. and kayaking. Additionally. Galway is home to cultural institutions such as the Galway City Museum and the Druid Theatre Company, showcasing the city's artistic and historical heritage.

Galway is steeped in folklore and mythology. with tales of ancient kings. mythical creatures. and supernatural events woven into its history. One famous legend is that of the Claddagh Ring. a traditional Irish ring symbolising love. friendship. and loyalty. which is said to have originated in Galway. Another intriguing story is that of the Spanish Arch. a

historic landmark dating back to the 16th century, which is said to be haunted by the ghosts of Spanish sailors who once sailed into Galway Bay.

Throughout its history, Galway has been the site of numerous historical events, from Viking invasions to battles during the Irish War of Independence. The city's medieval walls and fortifications bear witness to its turbulent past, while landmarks such as Lynch's Castle and St Nicholas' Collegiate Church provide insights into its architectural and religious heritage. Famous historical figures associated with Galway include Grace O'Malley, the legendary Irish pirate queen, and Richard Martin, an 18th-century politician and animal rights activist.

GAELIC FOOTBALL

Gaelic Football is an Irish team sport played on a rectangular grass pitch with 15 players on both teams.

The objective of the sport is to score by kicking or punching the soccer-like ball into the other team's goals.

Gaelic football has a long history and strong connection with Ireland's cultural identity and community spirit. It is based on ancient Celtic games and has evolved over time with different rules and styles.

On our trip we should be invested in knowing the rules and traditions of Gaelic football as we will be playing either the traditional game of Gaelic Football or International Rules (a mix of both Aussie Rules and Gaelic Football).

Gaelic football is interesting >



VIBRANT Galway is known for its colourful buildings, stunning natural landscapes and rich arts scene.



WONDEROUS Giant's Causeway is a world heritage listed site featuring hexagonal columns that appear to form a pathway into the sea.

◆ because it has a very close relation to our well-known game of Australian Rules Football. It also has a connection to Ballarat and St Patrick's College.

In 2017, two Irish exchange students came to St Patrick's College as a part of a new scholarship program at the College. They both played Gaelic Football in Ireland before coming out to St Patrick's College.

HURLING

Hurling is an ancient Gaelic sport that dates back thousands of years and is wildly popular among the Irish.

Administered by the Gaelic Athletic Association, hurling is played throughout the world, sharing some popularity among members of the Irish diaspora in North America, Europe, Australia.

New Zealand, South Africa, Dubai and Argentina.

A hurling field holds similarities to a rugby field but much larger. The grass pitch is a rectangular shape, stretching 130-145 metres long and 80-90 metres wide. The objective of the game is for players to use a ash wood stick called a hurley to hit a small ball called a sliotar between the opponent's goalposts either over the crossbar for one point or under the crossbar into a net guarded by a goalkeeper for three points.

The sliotar can be caught in the hand and carried for not more than four steps, struck in the air, or struck on the ground with the hurley. It can be kicked or slapped with an open hand (the hand pass), for short-range passing. A player

who wants to carry the ball for more than four steps must bounce or balance the sliotar on the end of the stick (solo), and the ball can only be handled twice while in the player's possession. A team comprises 15 players or 'hurlers' and the average game lasts 60-70 minutes with two halves.

DERRY. NORTHERN IRELAND

Derry, also known as Londonderry, is an historic city nestled in Northern Ireland, boasting a rich cultural heritage and scenic landscapes. One of its standout features is the Derry City Walls, constructed in the 17th Century and considered among Europe's best-preserved fortifications. These walls not only provide a fascinating glimpse into the city's history but also offer breathtaking panoramic views of

the surroundings.

In Derry, the Guildhall is a standout landmark inside the city walls. This impressive building, home to a beautiful stained glass collection, reflects the city's architectural splendour. Another notable attraction is the Peace Bridge, stretching across the River Foyle and linking the city centre to Ebrington Square. More than just a practical bridge, it signifies Derry's dedication to peace and provides a tranquil route for pedestrians and cyclists.

In Derry's Bogside neighbourhood. lively murals on the streets depict the city's complex history and its path to reconciliation. These powerful Bogside Murals serve as canvases sharing the stories of the nationalist community's challenges and dreams. Exploring these artworks gives a moving glimpse into the city's social and political changes.

Derry seamlessly mixes history and modernity, with attractions like ancient walls, modern bridges, and meaningful murals. This creates a varied experience, making it an interesting destination for those wanting to explore Northern Ireland's rich culture.

THE ANTRIM COAST, THE GIANTS' CAUSEWAY

The Antrim Coast, home to the iconic Giant's Causeway, stands as a testament to the geological wonders that shape our world. This World Heritage site, located in Northern Ireland, boasts unique hexagonal columns that seem to form a pathway into the sea. The significance of the Giant's

Causeway lies not only in its geological marvel but also in the myths and legends that surround it.

According to Irish folklore, the Causeway was built by the giant Finn McCool who constructed it to cross the sea and confront his Scottish rival Benandonner The myth of McCool and the creation of the Giant's Causeway adds a layer of cultural richness to the natural beauty of the site. The tale has been passed down through generations, blending history with our own imagination. It serves as a symbol of the region's rich heritage and the storvtelling traditions that have been an integral part of Irish culture. The geological significance of the columns, formed by volcanic activity millions of years ago, is complemented by the cultural significance bestowed upon it by these myths and folklore of the giants who used to roam, making the Antrim Coast a site to see and one that should be on everyone's bucket list.

Beyond its mythological stories, the Antrim Coast and Giant's Causeway play a crucial role in the understanding of Earth's geological processes. The interlocking hexagonal columns are a result of volcanic activity and the rapid cooling of lava. This geological wonder attracts scientists, geologists, and nature enthusiasts, providing a glimpse into the Earth's history and the forces that have shaped its landscapes.

In addition to its geological and cultural significance, the Antrim Coast and Giant's Causeway draws visitors from around the

world, contributing to the local economy and creating a sense of appreciation for such a place. The site's popularity has turned it into a symbol of Northern Ireland, attracting tourists who are eager to witness the breathtaking scenery and hear the mythical tales that add a layer of magic to this enchanting place. The Antrim Coast, with the Giant's Causeway at its heart, is a remarkable blend of natural beauty, geological marvel, and cultural richness, making it a truly extraordinary destination and one that I can't wait to see in the flesh.

FALLS RD AND SHANKHILL RD, BELFAST

The Falls Road and Shankhill Road have played significant parts in Belfast's modern history.

The Falls Road stretches about 3.2 kilometres through the large Catholic part of West Belfast.

With its proximity to the nearby Loyalist Shankill Road, violence and tensions were never far away from the Falls Road during The Troubles.

During the infamous riots of August, 1969, six Catholics were killed and several streets burnt out near the Falls Road.

As a result, the British Army built a Peace Wall along Cupar Way to separate the Shankill and Falls roads and keep the communities apart. Half a century later, the wall is still in place.

One of the most well-known incidents of The Troubles is the Shankill Road bombing, which occurred on 23 October, 1993. A bomb exploded in Frizzell's Fish Shop, below the loyalist Ulster



ROYAL Buckingham Palace is known around the world as the home of the monarch.

■ Defence Association (UDA) headquarters. The bomb exploded prematurely as it was being planted and killed 10, including one of the bombers.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, PALACE AND ABBEY, LONDON

The London Westminster Palace. Abbey, and Cathedral are major players in London's history. The palace, known as the Houses of Parliament, is where all the big political decisions for the UK are made. It is also the home of the Big Ben clock tower.

Westminster Abbey is like a massive history book. It's where kings and queens have been crowned, and many famous people such as poets and scientists are buried. The cathedral is the largest Catholic church in England and

Wales, and it's famous for its stunning architecture.

These places also have some fascinating stories and myths. Westminster Abbey has a tomb for an unknown soldier from World War I, and a chair that's wrapped in mystery. Westminster Palace was almost blown sky-high in 1605 in the Gunpowder Plot by a man named Guy Fawkes. And Westminster Cathedral has a story about a red hat that hangs from the roof.

All these spots have been at the heart of big events in British history. The Abbey has seen coronations and weddings. the Palace narrowly dodged destruction, and the Cathedral holds great significance for Catholics in England and Wales. St Patrick's College in Ballarat.

Australia, even mirrors these London landmarks with some of its architecture

BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND THE MALL. LONDON

The palace was built in 1703 as a private house for the Duke of Buckingham. It has been the British monarch's administrative headquarters since 1837. The palace has a total of 775 rooms. 188 staff bedrooms, 19 staterooms. 52 royal and guest bedrooms, 92 offices and 78 bathrooms, as well as a staggering 1,514 doors and 760 windows. The palace's grounds alone covers 39 acres, and the total land area spans 77,000 square metres.

The Changing of the Guard ceremony, also known as Guard Mounting, occurs outside Buckingham Palace at 11am every day and typically lasts around 45 minutes.

The Mall is a tree-lined royal road leading from Trafalgar Square to Buckingham Palace. The road is closed to traffic on Sundays, public holidays and for ceremonial events, including royal weddings. Jubilee celebrations, parades and state visits. The Mall began as part of the tended grounds of St James palace, and when pall-mall became popular, as a field for playing the game. In the 17th and 18th centuries it was a fashionable promenade bordered by trees.

The surface of The Mall has been coloured red since the 1950s giving the effect of a giant red carpet leading up to Buckingham Palace. The annual London Marathon finishes on The Mall. It was also the start and finish line for the marathon course, the road race and the race walks of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In 2011, more than one million people packed the Mall to see the then newly-wed Duke and Duchess of Cambridge appear on the palace balcony with other members of the Royal Family. At the eastern end of The Mall is Horse Guards Parade, where the Trooping the Colour ceremony is held to mark the official birthday of the British Sovereign. St James's Park is on the south side, with Green Park and St James's Palace on the north side.

LORD'S CRICKET GROUND

Established in 1787. Lord's is one of the world's most famous cricket grounds and is often referred to as 'the home of cricket'.

It is the home of Middlesex County Cricket Club and hosts major domestic and international cricket fixtures, including The Ashes

Lord's has world-class facilities and a reputation for architectural excellence. The ground operates on 100 per cent renewable energy. The Pavilion at Lord's has a distinctive architectural style and is a Grade II listed building.

Over the years, a number of interesting events have taken place during cricket matches at Lord's. In 1936, a sparrow was killed during a game and the sparrow and the ball are now on display in the museum. In 1975, Mitchell Angelow was the first streaker, hurdling over the wickets during day four of a match

between England and Australia.

WEST END THEATRES. LONDON

The West End Theatres are a group of 39 large theatres located near the west end of London, the largest theatre district in the world. The West End theatre is considered by many to be the highest level of commercial theatre, staging plays, musicals, operas, comedies, and dance shows, with some of the most famous British and international screen actors performing.

The West End Theatres, commonly referred to as 'Theatreland', are extremely significant in British and theatrical history. Theatre became extremely popular after the English Reformation and in 1663 London's oldest theatre, the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, opened. Many small theatres and halls later opened nearby, establishing the West End Theatre district



The longest running play in the world. The Mousetrap, has been running in the West End Theatres since 1952, while Les Misérables, produced by Cameron Mackintosh, is the longest running musical, first opening in 1985. Other popular shows include Mamma Mia, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Hamilton, and Sister Act. Even if you don't watch a play, the old buildings and bright flashing lights of West End are a must-see for tourists.

THE TOWER OF LONDON

The Tower of London was constructed by William the Conqueror after the Norman Conquest in 1066. Its establishment signified the Norman rulers' authority in England and served as a symbol of power.

The Tower gained notoriety as a prison where high-profile prisoners. including royalty, were held. It was also a site of numerous •



POPULAR The Tower of London and West End are among London's most visited tourist sites.

◀ executions, contributing to its grim reputation.

Today, the Tower of London is a UNESCO World Heritage site and popular tourist destination, offering guided tours that provide insight into its rich history, architecture, and the stories of those who lived and died within its walls.

The Tower of London is integral to England's national identity. Its enduring presence on the banks of the river Thames contributes to a sense of continuity and historical consciousness among the English people.

The ghost of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of King Henry VIII, is said to haunt the Tower.

Witnesses have reported sightings of her ghost around the White Tower, where she was imprisoned before her execution in 1536. Lady Jane Grey, the Nine Days' Queen, was also executed at the Tower in 1554. It is believed that her ghost wanders the Tower Green, where she was beheaded, and some claim to have seen her ghostly figure.

THE EUROSTAR & ST PANCRAS' STATION

Opening its doors in 1868. St Pancras station is a marvel of Victorian engineering. It is one of the most exquisite stations in the world and a wonderful example of Victorian Gothic architecture.

The Midland Railway Company (MRC) developed the station with the intention of showcasing the company's physical magnificence and connecting London with some of the most important cities in England.

The station offers a remarkable

selection of stores, such as the White Company, Fortnum & Mason, Marks & Spencer, Hamleys, Calvin Klein, Chanel, and Paperchase.

It also features a great range of eateries and bars, including Yo! Sushi, Prime Burger, The Booking Office, and Searcys Brasserie & Champagne Bar.

LILLE, FRANCE/BELGIUM

Lille is a city in northern France. located near the border with Belgium. It is the capital of the Hauts-de-France region and the prefecture of the Nord department. Lille has a rich history and its architecture reflects a blend of Flemish and French influences.

Lille was an important centre for trade and commerce in the Middle Ages. The Lille Europe station is a key transportation hub and is easily accessible from major European cities. Lille is known for its culinary delights, including local specialties like the "carbonnade flamande", a beef and beer stew and "frites" (fries) with various sauces.

The Grand Place is the central square of Lille, surrounded by colourful and ornate buildings. It serves as the focal point for various events and festivals.

THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western Front of World War I was a key theatre of operations during the conflict. Stretching from the North Sea to the Swiss border, the Western Front was a 400-mile-long line of trenches and fortifications that divided the Allied and Central Powers forces. This front became synonymous with the brutal trench warfare that characterized World War I.

One of the key aspects of the Western Front was the stalemate that occurred there for much of the war. Both sides dug into their positions, creating a vast network of trenches that stretched for miles. This resulted in a bloody and protracted conflict, with neither side able to make significant gains. The use of new technologies, such as machine guns, artillery, and poison gas, meant that frontal assaults were often futile and led to heavy casualties.

The Western Front was also significant for the scale of the conflict that took place there. Millions of soldiers from countries around the world fought on the Western Front, making it one of the largest battlegrounds in history. The sheer scale of the fighting, combined with the brutal conditions in the trenches, led to widespread suffering and loss of life. Many stories and myths have emerged from the Western Front. highlighting the hardships faced by soldiers on both sides. One of the most famous stories is that of the Christmas Truce of 1914, when soldiers from both sides laid down their arms and came together to celebrate Christmas in no-man'sland. This brief respite from the fighting serves as a reminder of the humanity that existed even in the midst of the brutal conflict.

SPC OLD COLLEGIANS, WESTERN FRONT

Twenty-three Old Collegians. or former St Patrick's College students, lost their lives on the Western Front during the Great War. Six of these soldiers -Manning (28), O'Doherty (29), Reidy



MOVING Every evening at 8pm the Last Post is played at the Menin Gate.

(34), Shelton (32), Sullivan (36), Williams (23) - are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial. Their headstones can be found near the Australian flag.

The other 17 fallen Old Collegians are scattered throughout the Western Front. either alone or with another soldier.

At St Patrick's College, you can find the names of these soldiers engraved into a tablet located near the entrance of the Waterford Wing.

Our Memorial Chapel was built in 1954 and dedicated to the Old Collegians who died during the First and Second World Wars.

THE MENIN GATE

The Menin Gate, officially the Menin Gate Memorial to the

Missing, is a war memorial in Ypres. Belgium, dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in World War I and whose graves are unknown.

The memorial is located at the starting point for one of the main roads that led Allied soldiers to the front line. British and Commonwealth soldiers often passed through the Menin on their way to the front lines with 300.000 of them being killed in the Ypres Salient.

The carved limestone lions at the original gate were damaged by shellfire, and were donated to the Australian War Memorial by the Mayor of Ypres in 1936. They were restored in 1987 and are now at the entrance to that Memorial.

After the Menin Gate Memorial

opening in 1927, the citizens of Ypres wanted to express their gratitude towards those who had given their lives for Belgium's freedom. Every evening at 8pm. buglers from the Last Post Association close the road which passes under the memorial and play the Last Post.

VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

The Australian National Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux is the main memorial to Australian military personnel killed on the Western Front during World War I. It is located on the Route Villiers-Bretonneux (D 23), between the towns of Fouilloy and Villers-Bretonneux.

The Australian Franco Museum of Villers Bretonneux is housed in Victoria School, built between 1923 and 1927 as a gift from the children of the Australian State of Victoria.

The school hall. Victoria Hall, has wooden panelling and carvings of Australian animals and plants by the Australian sculptor John Grant and students from the Daylesford Technical College, Victoria.

The museum exhibits were established in the 1970s from material obtained through donations and private collections.

The Sir John Monash Centre is a museum and interpretive centre commemorating Australian servicemen and women who served on the Western Front during the First World War. The centre, which opened in April 2018, is set behind the Villers-Bretonneux Australian National Memorial and within the military cemetery.



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IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise up to meet us:
May the wind be always at our backs:
May the sun shine warm upon our faces,
and the rain fall soft upon our fields.
And until we meet again, may God hold
us in the hollow of his hand.



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE

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