

The Story of St. Jarlath, Patron of the Archdiocese of Tuam

The name Jarlath has long been associated with the town, parish and archdiocese of Tuam.

Who was this Jarlath?



Tradition tells us that Jarlath was born around 445 and died around 550 A.D. He studied under St. Benen in Kilbannon (church of Benen). He also spent time in the Aran Islands, studying under St. Enda, who was well-known for his wisdom.

Jarlath then founded his own monastery in Cloonfush, on the Galway Road side of Tuam. (approximately at the back of the current Al Hayes' Garage).

His fame as a teacher spread far and wide and many illustrious visitors spent time in Cloonfush. Among these were St. Brendan of Kerry (Brendan, the Navigator) and St. Colman of Cloyne, Co. Cork.

St. Brendan advised Jarlath that his end was not to be in Cloonfush and, despite his great age, *“to sit in his wagon”* and the place where the wheel of the wagon would break would *“mark the spot of his resurrection and the resurrection of many others on the last day”*.



And so, Jarlath arrived in Tuam, where the wheel fell off the wagon and he set up his new school there.



Six centuries later, this monastery became the centre of the Archdiocese of Tuam.

Since then, the broken wheel has been the emblem of St. Jarlath in Tuam and is the logo for St. Jarlath's College, a well-known centre of education for over 200 years.

The logo showing the High Cross of Tuam, the broken wheel of St. Jarlath and the emblem of the Holy Spirit, with the words “Come Light of our hearts”.

