

Dear  
Children



In this edition, we are learning about two missionaries. A missionary is a person who goes out to spread the Gospel, which means the **Good News**.

Toby

# St Brendan

**Name:** St Brendan

**Born:** 484

**Patron Saint of** seafarers and travellers.

**Life story:** St Brendan was born in Annagh, Co. Kerry in the year 484. He set up a number of monasteries in Ireland. One was set up at Ardfert, at the foot of Mount Brandon in Co. Kerry. However, the most famous one was at Clonfert in Co. Galway in 560. Today, there is a big cathedral in Clonfert where he is buried.

Brendan loved travelling on the sea and was very skilled in a sailing in a coracle, which is a small boat. St Brendan undertook many sea voyages around Ireland, Wales and western Scotland. A 9th century manuscript called the Voyage of St Brendan the Abbot tells the story of a voyage which lasted for seven years.

He probably travelled to Iceland, Greenland and maybe even America. The manuscript is full of the adventures of his journey. One story even tells how St Brendan landed on an island that was actually a great big sea monster! St Brendan died in 578. He is known as the patron saint of seafarers and travellers.

# ACTIVITY

Draw a picture while listening to the music *The Brendan Voyage* or write a fact file on a missionary about whom you have learned something.

You are welcome to share this with me by sending a photo of your poster to:  
[toby@salesiansireland.ie](mailto:toby@salesiansireland.ie)

## Blessed CARLO ACUTIS

1991 - 2006

**Name:** Carlo Acutis

**Born:** 1991

**Died:** 2006

**Patron saint of** Youth, Computer programmers

**Life story:** Blessed Carlo Acutis was born in London on 3 May 1991 to a wealthy Italian family. He moved to Milan in Italy as a child. Carlo lived a life of holiness and shared his experience of God with his friends. He went to daily Mass and received the Eucharist every day. During his 15 years on earth, he lived like any young person: going to school, playing soccer, eating at the pizzeria with his friends. He enjoyed video games, computer programming and making home movies with his cats and dogs.

Carlo used the internet to bring the word of God to others. Using his computer skills, he designed an online Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition that is now translated into 17 languages and has been displayed across the world. Carlo died of leukaemia in 2006. He is a positive role model for young people and he was beatified on 10 October 2020. This is why he is now given the title Blessed.

