

SACRED STORY

THE STORY OF ST. COLUMBA (REMEMBERED JUNE 9, DIED IN 597)

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: ST. COLUMBA LOVED BOOKS AND PEOPLE FOR GOD.

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: THE MYSTERY OF PENTECOST SHELF, THIRD SHELF, UNDER ST. THOMAS**
- **PIECES: ST. COLUMBA BOOKLET, A DOVE, AN ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT PAGE, A PHOTO OF IONA**
- **UNDERLAY: GREEN**

BACKGROUND

Columba was born in Donegal, Ireland in 521 where one of his ancestors was the high king. He became a monk and then a priest and founded many monasteries and churches in Ireland. He moved to the Island of Iona in 563 which provided a place for prayer, the copying of books, and a base to help establish Christianity in the British Isles.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

St. Columba's story sits on a small, shallow tray about 8" square, with sides about 2" deep. It has a groove in the front to slide the "saint booklet" in so the children can see it when they approach the Mystery of Pentecost shelf.

The booklet is 4.25" x 5.5". The cover has an image of St. Columba on it that matches the saint figure used in the introductory lessons on the communion of saints. The second page has a map of the world on it, with Scotland, Columba's home, highlighted and labeled. It also has an image of the flag of the United Kingdom since Scotland is part of that country. The third page has a time line beginning with the year 1 AD and ending with the year 2000 AD. It has an arrow indicating when Columba lived. The rest of the booklet has the story of the life of Columba.

Behind the booklet in the tray are placed the objects used to help us remember Columba's life: A dove, an illuminated manuscript page mounted on wood and a photo of Iona (laminated or mounted on wood). The underlay is a 12" square piece of green cloth and is folded on top of the objects.



ST. COLUMBA TRAY

A NOTE ABOUT DATES FOR THE SAINTS

There is scholarly debate about the dates for the lives of many saints. We have had to make decisions about these dates for pedagogical reasons. We hope the children will continue to learn more about the saints all their life long, including their dates. The basis for the dates used in the saints lessons is how they are remembered liturgically. This has been established by custom in the Roman Catholic, Anglican and other traditions. We usually follow the dates that are found in the Episcopal publication called *Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2006*. This book is also a reference for remembering saints for most days in the year and for children (and adults) to continue to learn more about the saints, using this liturgical orientation.

You can order this book at www.Cokesbury.com
or by calling: 1-800-672-1789.