

Features of Celtic Christianity:

- * Love of nature and a passion for the wild and elemental as a reminder of God's gift.
- * Love and respect for art and poetry.
- * Love and respect for the great stories and "higher learning"
- * Sense of God and the saints as a continuing, personal, helpful presence.
- * Theologically orthodox, yet with heavy emphasis on the Trinity, and a love and respect for Mary, the Incarnation of Christ, and Liturgy.
- * No boundaries between the sacred and the secular.
- * Unique Church structure: there were originally no towns, just nomadic settlements, hence the church was more monastic rather than diocesan, resulting in quite independent rules and liturgies.
- * Ireland was very isolated; it was hard to impose outside central Roman authority.
- * Influenced much by middle-eastern and Coptic monasticism.
- * Used the ancient calendar system for celebrating Easter and Lent.
- * Abbots had more power than the bishops.
- * Monasteries were often huge theocratic villages often associated with a clan with the same kinship ties, along with slaves, freemen, celibate monks, married clergy, professed lay people, men and women living side by side.
- * While some monasteries were in isolated places, many more were at the crossroads of provincial territories.
- * Women had more equal footing in ancient Irish law, thus had more equal say in church government.
- * Developed the idea of having a "soul friend" (anmchara) to help in spiritual direction.
- * Invented personal confession.
- * Oral word-based culture; most of the people were illiterate but had great memorization skills. They loved to hear great stories.
- * A sense of closeness and immanence between the natural and supernatural.
- * A mandate for hospitality.
- * Emphasis on family and kinship ties.

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