Early Christian Ireland
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- Early 400 AD.
- First arrived in the south-east.
- Palladius (bishop) sent to visit Ireland in 431 AD.
- Some may have been slaves e.g. St Patrick (430 to 490 AD).
- Most Celts were Christian by 600AD.
- Celtic life continued as before but druids lost power.
Monasteries

• Believed they can get closer to god by devoting their life in remote areas.
• Men = monks. Lived in monasteries.
• Women = nuns. Lived in convents.

_Sceilig Mhichíl_   _Glendalough_
What Did An Early Christian Monastery Look Like?
Church
Round Towers
Beehive Cells (clocháns)
Scriptorium

- Scribes.
- Quill (goose/swan feathers).
- Manuscripts on parchment (sheep skin) or vellum (calf skin).

Book of Kells

Cathach of St Columba
Refectory
Arts and Crafts

**Metalwork:**
- made beautiful objects in **gold/silver**.
- Celtic design used e.g.
- **Ardagh and Derrynaflan CLa Ténehalices**
- **Tara Brooch**

**Stonework:**
- **High crosses** (Muireadeach’s Cross in Monasterboice.
- **Decorative** stonework.
- People couldn’t read or write so decorative images taught them about Christianity.
Irish Monks (Home and Away!)

- **Dark Ages** – after the fall of the Roman Empire when tribes were at war with each other across the continent.
- Ireland known as ‘the island of saints and scholars’ – Irish monks kept art and learning alive.
- **St Colmcille** in Iona, Scotland.
- **Golden Age** of learning = Irish monasteries were famous/successful and many came from across Europe to study in them.
- **Vikings!!!! 795AD.**
- Treasures from Irish monasteries have been discovered in Denmark and Sweden!