

Saint Mobhi of Glasnevin

Saint Mobhi of Glasnevin was one of the 'Twelve apostles of Ireland', famed as the founder of a monastic school and as a teacher of some famous saints, among them Saints Colum Cille and Saint Cannice, whose feast falls the day before that of his former master. Saint Mobhi is famous also for having the rather curious adjective 'clarinech' appended to his name, this is usually translated as 'flat-faced'. The earliest Irish calendar, the Martyrology of Oengus, attempted to explain why. The entry for today reads:

Declare Fiacc and Fiachra, at the same time --
great is that treasure!
my Bi, strong that triumph!
that fair flatfaced one.

A bubonic plague, then sweeping Europe, arrived in Glasnevin (around 544/5). One of its victims was St Mobhi, who, before he fell asleep in the Lord, closed the monastery and dispersed his students so they might escape infection.

Sources: <https://omniumsanctorumhiberniae.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/irish-saint-laid-the-foundations-of-british-christianity-1.82737>