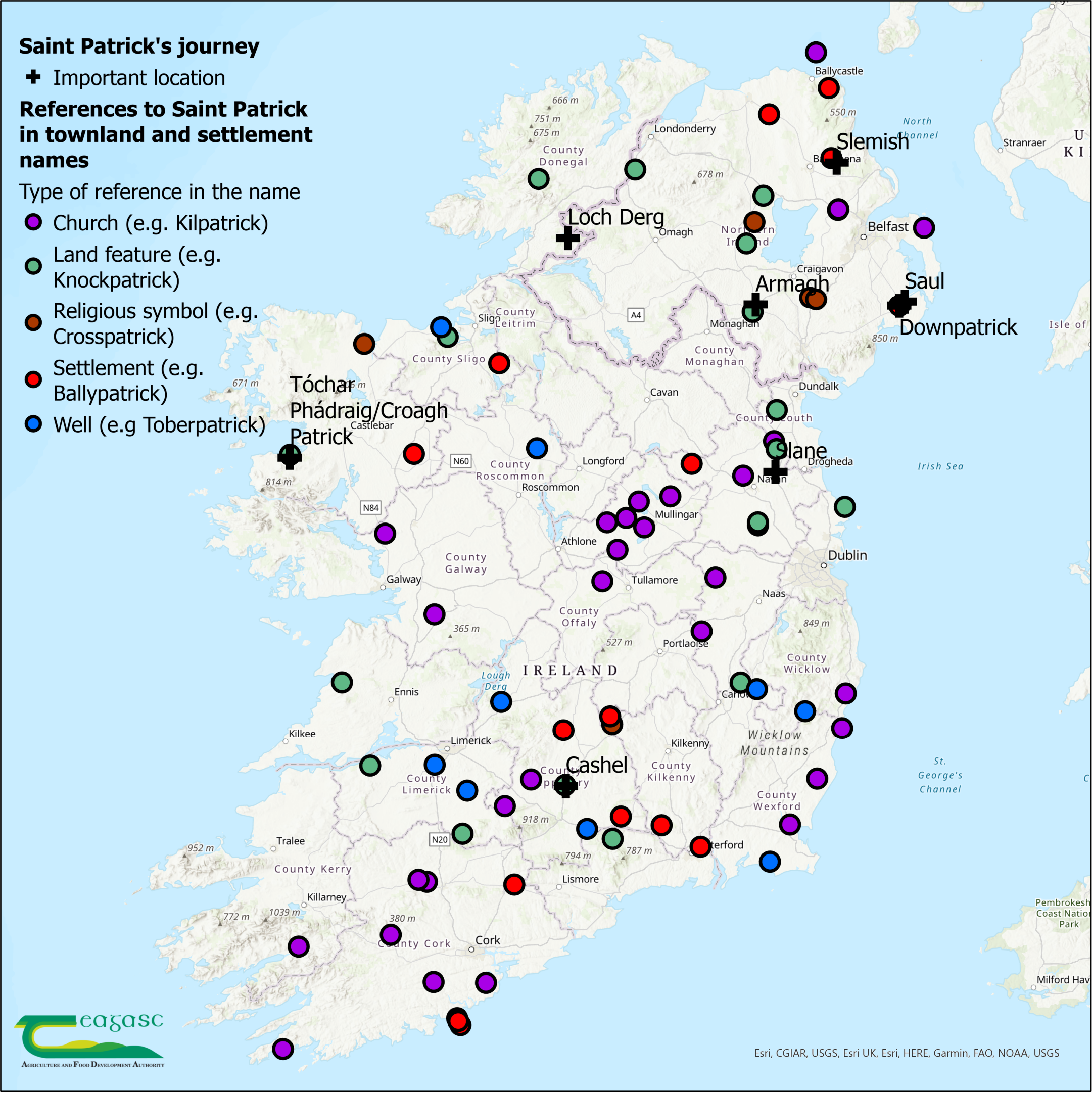


Saint Patrick in Ireland: Names and places



To mark this year's Saint Patrick's day we show a map of the townlands and settlements that derive their name from Ireland's patron saint. Furthermore, we show the most important places linked to the mythology of Saint Patrick. For more detail visit the interactive StoryMap. The journey begins on the slopes of Slemish, Sliabh Mis, Co. Antrim where the enslaved St. Patrick reputedly herded sheep. According to legend, Patrick founded his first church at Saul, Co. Down, in a barn donated to him by the local chieftain Dichu. The Hill of Slane, Co. Meath, is the location of some of the most important motifs of the story of St Patrick. Most famously, here, he used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to local chiefs. We then move to the Rock of Cashel, Co. Tipperary. It's the site of the baptism of Ireland's first Christian king, Aengus the King of Munster, by Patrick. Of course, we have to highlight Croagh Patrick, Co. Mayo, where Patrick undertook the Lenten fast. Legend also has it that from here he banished the snakes from Ireland. Further north, at Lough Derg (Loch Dearg, the red lake) in Co. Donegal is reputedly the site where Patrick killed a large serpent who was terrorising the area. From there, we move east again, to Armagh, Co. Armagh, the seat of both the Roman Catholic and the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, who hold the positions of Primate of All Ireland, as they are considered the direct successors of Patrick. Finally, legend has it that after his death at Saul, Co. Down, at the age of 120, Patrick was brought to Downpatrick and buried in the grounds of Down Cathedral.