Columba/Columcille

Born: 521 AD

Died: 597 AD

Feast Day: 9 June

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DERRY DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL CENTRE

Columba was born in Gartan, Co Donegal on 7 December 521 AD. His parents Eithne and Ferdlinid had royal blood. As a young boy, Columba was very prayerful, and his friends called him 'Dove of the Church.'

He grew up to be a man of great faith. He was ordained a priest by Saint Finian of Clonard and he spent his time in monasteries in Moville and Glasnevin.

In 540 AD he founded a monastic settlement in Derry and a Christian monastery on the hill in an oak grove in Doire 'place of the oak.' The Long Tower Church is built on the site of a Catholic church which dates back to the 12th century. Columba established 100 churches throughout Ireland.
Saint Columba left for Iona in 563 AD and founded a monastery there also. He died in Iona in 597 AD

He is Patron saint of Derry and many churches, buildings, streets, groups bear his name.