# Finbarr of Cork

Born: 550 AD
Died: 620 AD

Feast Day:
25 September

Carsten Hemberger, derivate Hic et nunc - de:Datei:Cork (47).JPG
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DERRY DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL CENTRE

Finbar, Finnbar, or Finnbarr, in Irish Fionnbharra, was the son of an artisan and a lady of the Irish royal court. He was born in Templemartin, near Bandon and he was educated at Kilmacahil, Kilkenny, where the monks named him Fionnbharr (white head) because of his light hair.

He went on pilgrimage to Rome with some of the monks, visiting St. David in Wales on the way back.

On completion of his education he lived for some time on an island in the small lake then called Loch Irce.

He is reputed to have built small churches in various other places, including one in Ballincadig, County Cork.

He settled for about the last seventeen years of his life in the city of Cork, where he gathered around him monks and students. This became an important centre of learning.

The motto for University College, Cork, is "*Where Finbarr taught, let Munster learn*". Finbarr's monastery was probably sited near where the Church of Ireland Cathedral of St Finbarr stands today. He is said to have died, not in Cork but in Cloyne.

Pádraig Ó Riain, the scholar, believes Finbarr of Cork is an alias of Finian of Movilla. He believes that he came to Movilla, on Strangford Lough, and that because of his reputation a penitential was named after him and that Colmcille came to study with him, when he was already an old man. The question then is: *How did he come to be established in Cork?*

He is patron of Cork, Diocese of Cork.