

Mura of Fahan

Born: 550 AD

Died: 645 AD

Feast Day:

12 March



**DERRY DIOCESAN
CATECHETICAL
CENTRE**

Mura was a disciple of Columba. The monastery at Fahan was founded by St Columba. Columba appointed Mura as its first Abbot.

The monastery was anciently known as Othan Mor, but after the death of our saint was called Fahan Mura. He was highly esteemed by Hugh, Head King of Ireland, whose obit is chronicled in 607. After his death it was renamed Fahan Mura.

In the graveyard are the remains of the monastery and Saint Mura's Cross. This cross is decorated with intricate ribbon knotwork and shows a Tree of Life with roots in the earth and high branches in the air. These symbols represent the connection between heaven and earth. The seasonal cycles of the tree link its growth, death and re-birth. St. Mura's Well is close by.

Numerous legends are told of Mura. He wrote many works, including chronicles and a rhymed life of St. Columba, which is quoted in the Martyrology of Donegal. He is regarded as the special patron saint of the O'Neill clan, being sixth in descent from the founder, whose name survives in Inishowen (Inis Eoghan).

Among his relics still preserved are his crozier (Bachall Mura), now in the National Museum, Dublin, and his bell-shrine, now in the Wallace Collection, London.

Mura is patron saint of Fahan in County Derry.

