



9. A Mhaighdean Bheannaithe (O Holy Virgin)

Old Irish hymn, author unknown. Words compiled by F. Mac Coluim (Trad/Arr. D.Ó Liatháin)

The silence, this time of loneliness, of the loss of her only Son, grieves Our Blessed Mother; and so together we try to comfort her with these consoling words.

This ancient Irish hymn, is sung unaccompanied, in keeping with the Christian tradition of no bells or music from Good Friday to the Easter Vigil, symbolising the absence of joy and celebration and the emptiness that we feel.

A Mhaighdean Bheannaithe, mo mhíle ghrá thú
Mo chabhair chosant' in ám gach gá thú
Mo lia leighis is mé tinn nó im' shláinte
Is m'urra bheannaithe i bhflaitheas na ngrásta

A Mhaighdean ghlórmhór, mhórmhar, mhaiseach
Is tú mo stór, mo lón, 's mo thaisce
Is tú an réalt eolais, romham sa bhealach
Is i ngleann na ndeor go mba tú mo chara
O Holy Virgin, you are a thousand times my love
My help and protection at all times of need

My healer and restorer
when I am ill or in good health
And my most holy surety in the paradise of graces

O glorious, almighty, beautiful Virgin
You are my deep love, my sustenance
and my treasure
You are the star of knowledge,
before me as my guide
And in the vale of sorrows may you be my
dear friend