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IN ST. PATRICK'S FOOTSTEPS.

The status of Ireland's national Saint welcomes Pilgrims as they arrive for the annual Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage. For nearly fifteen-hundred years the devout have made the long, hard climb to the hilltop where St. Patrick fasted a whole Lent. Through rain and mud they climb towards the first of 5 stations.

Leacht Bannin is the first station to be observed. Long ago in tradition the places and the exercises to be performed were laid down. And the higher they climb the harder the way and the station.

Though St. Patrick in the year 441 kept Lent on the summit, tradition confirmed by a papal document makes the last Sunday in July the day for the Pilgrimage. The second station is Leacht Fhadraig.

And so to the little shrine in the clouds. From here St. Patrick looked over Ireland and prayed for her people far back in the mists of history.
