# Columba (521-597) - Lecture 1 - Faith before the 'Blessed Man'

1. **Tertullian of Carthage** (Writing c. 200)

2. **The Treasure at Traprain** (Early 5th Century?)

3. **The Yarrow Stone** (5th Century/Borders)

4. **The Catstane** (4th or 5th Century/Edinburgh)

5. **The Latinus Stone** (5th Century/Wigtownshire)

> *We praise you the Lord,*
> *Latinus, descendant of Barravados, aged 35,*
> *And his daughter, aged 4, Made a sign here.*

6. **Kentigern/Mungo:** (6th century) East of Scotland origins? – Main mission around the Clyde – Existing Christian influence among Strathclyde Britons?

7. **Ninian** [Dates: (a) early 5th Century, or (b) much later. Possibly originating from British-Christian community in Cumbria/Carlisle area]

   'The southern Picts, who live on this side of the mountains, are said to have abandoned the errors of idolatry long before this date *[the times of Columba]* and accepted the true faith through the preaching of bishop Ninian, a most reverend and holy man of British race, who had been regularly instructed in the mysteries of the Christian faith in Rome.

   Ninian's own Episcopal see, named after St Martin[1] and famous for its stately church, is now held by the English, and it is here that his body and those of many saints lie at rest. The place belongs to the province of Bernicia and is commonly known as *Candida Casa*, the White House, because he built a church of stone which was unusual among the Britons.' [ Bede, *History,* III, 4]

   o Bede favours Roman Church over Celtic Church.

   o Bede promotes Ninian's status over Columba's status.

8. **Patrick in Ireland**

9. **Dal Riata and the Irish/Celtic Church:** Before Columba arrives (563):

   o Christian presence in south of Scotland, perhaps also north of the Forth/Clyde line.

   o Kingdom of Strathclyde seeing itself as a Christian kingdom.

   o Colony of Dal Riata in Argyll, also professing Christianity.

   o Wave of eager Irish/Celtic missionary-monks, ready to evangelise anywhere!

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[1] The traditional date for the commencement of Ninian's work is AD397.