Ireland was never invaded by either the Romans or the Anglo-Saxons. T he message of Christianity was spread in Ireland by a British slave, Parrick, who became the "patron saint" of Ireland. Christianit y brought wriring, which weakened the position of the Druids, who depended on memory and the spoken word. Christian monasteries grew up, frequen tly along the coast. This period is often ca lled Ireland's "golden age" .Five kingdoms grew up in Ireland: Ulster in the north , Mun srer in the sourhwest , Leinster in the southeast, Connaught in the west, with Tara as the seat of the high kin gs of Ireland. As in Wales, people were known by the family grouping they belonged ro. O urside their tribe they had no protect ion and no name of th eir own. In fact the system led to cont inuous cha llenges. It was a land of monasteries and had a flourishing Celtic culture. They had only the name of th eir tribe. The kings in this tribal society were chosen by election. Christianity came to Ireland in about A D 430. The beginnin g of Ireland 's history date s from that time, because for the first time there were people who could write down events. Invaders were unknown and culture flowered .The idea was that the strongest man should lead.

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