The total list was 70 individuals long. For the scope of this assignment and the larger project, I decided to cut the list in half. First, I considered a series of questions. These questions were both practical and methodological. Because I am considering the maintenance of earlier cultural ties after 1200, I removed any saints whose lives occurred later than the second half of the 11th century.[[1]](#footnote-1) Then, I made sure to include saints like Palladius, Brigid, and Brendan, who overlapped across the sources. I removed saints not native to the British Isles. Margaret is the exception here, because she is a member of the English royal family who happened to be born during a period of exile. Finally, any saints without an extant English translation of their Vita were removed for future examinations. This final consideration is practical in two ways: one, Latin translation requires time not conducive to a semester long project. Two, topic modeling in Latin is complicated, and text analysis is also challenging. I intentionally saved the original list before cuts were made. This way, if my dissertation uses this database, the 35 saints that I cut have been appropriately recorded for ease of later addition.

As I worked, approximately 10 more saints were removed. Some, like Convallus, were removed because the primary source they appeared in did not contain enough information to identify them in the Saints table. Others, like Machutes, may or may not have been a repeat or alternate spelling, but the primary sources were not enough to confirm or deny this. My final list of saints ended up being about 25 individuals long. Of these 25, only 5 Scottish saints had extant English translations in any of my primary sources. To avoid necessarily skewing the data and overrepresenting Irish saints, I chose 5 Irish Vitae with criteria in mind. I chose Brigid because she is most like Margaret in terms of scope of veneration. Samthann shares a province of birth, Ulster, with St. Columba. Abban, like St. Ninian, is active earlier than his contemporaries. Brendan’s Life is similar in length to St. Kentigern’s. Finally, Ruadan and St. Servanus are active in similar timelines and could provide salient comparative analysis of the fifth century.

My first query is admittedly not as exciting as I think querying this database could be, but the database itself was such an undertaking to create that I chose to keep it simple for my initial exploration to best feel out the structure within the timeline of this assignment. I am admittedly not very comfortable with SQL, especially in the Python environment, and am still wary of breaking the database structure. The intent of the hagiographical database is to demonstrate the archetype of religious exchange, but I noticed an interesting trend that I thought could be effectively queried using the Saints information data. Almost every saint was born somewhere in Ireland, but a regional pattern was beginning to emerge. Leinster and Munster, two provinces in Ireland, appeared as frequent birthplaces for saints. I wanted to pull them out of the table and analyze the percentage of saints in the database with birthplaces listed specifically as Leinster or Munster. I wrote this as two queries, so that I could arrange them by sex.[[2]](#footnote-2) Only one female saint was born in either place. 3 male saints were born in Leinster, and 2 were born in Munster. This provides an avenue for further research: Why are those locations significantly overrepresented by male saints, and what is happening there to produce so many saints overall?

1. Gregory 7 begins his project of reform in the late 11th century, changing the dynamic of the religious landscape in Ireland especially. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. I did leave copilot on while writing my queries. It was showing suggestions, but before I accepted any, mostly just a reminder to print the query, I double checked in my notes. I have cited copilot in the works cited. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)