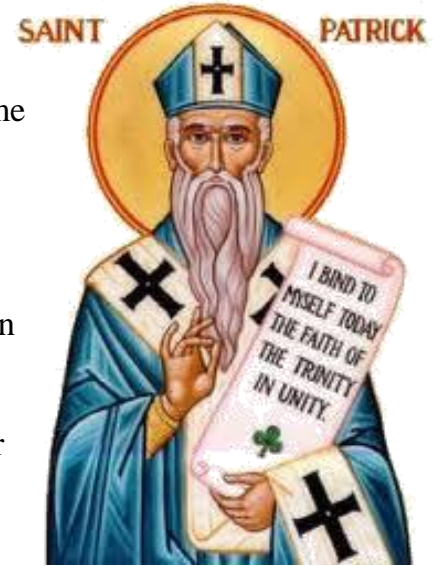


# St. Patrick

## A little History



The colour green, a shamrock, St. Paddy's Day parades? All of these things have become associated with our celebration of St. Patrick's Day every March. **But why?**



One of Christianity's most well-known figures, Saint Patrick was born in Britain to a wealthy family near the end of the fourth century. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders. He was carried away to Ireland where he was held captive for more than six years. During his time as a slave, Patrick worked as a shepherd, attending the flocks of his master. Alone and homesick, Patrick prayed many times a day while in the pastures with the sheep.

In Patrick's work, "Confessio", he wrote, "the love of God and His fear increased in me more and more, and the faith grew in me, and the spirit was aroused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers, and in the night nearly the same, so that whilst in the woods and on the mountain, even before the dawn, I was roused to prayer and felt no hurt from it, whether there was snow or ice or rain; nor was there any slothfulness in me such as I see now, because the spirit was then fervent within me."

While a slave in Ireland, Patrick learned the Celtic language and became familiar with the culture. After six years of living as a slave, he escaped from his master and set sail on a ship to Britain. Patrick was reunited with friends and family. However, things were different with Patrick when he returned. Patrick had a new desire in his heart and that was to devote himself to the service of God.

Patrick joined St. Martin's monastery at Tours, learning the Christian life, which would help prepare him for his future ministry amongst the Irish. After years of learning and growing in faith, Patrick and his companions set sail to Ireland in the summer months of 433. Upon his arrival, Patrick went to his former master to pay the price of ransom as well as to impart to him the blessings of God but by the time he had arrived, his master had set fire to his own mansion and treasures, even casting himself upon the flame.

Patrick evangelized in Ireland for many years. It wasn't easy as St. Patrick endured trials and persecutions from those who opposed the Christian faith. In his "Confessio", he tells of the numerous times he and his missionary companions were captured. But through these hardships, St. Patrick prevailed and remained steadfast in the faith, sharing the Gospel throughout Ireland.

St. Patrick used the shamrock, a three-leaf clover, to explain the difficult understanding of the Holy Trinity to the pre-Christian Irish. To this day, the shamrock has become a symbol of Ireland.



St. Patrick founded many churches in Ireland and continued looking after them until his death on March 17, 493. Every year, on March 17, millions of people celebrate this annual feast day that celebrates St. Patrick, a patron of Ireland. In Ireland, March 17 is a national holiday as they remember the life and work of Saint Patrick.



1. Where was St. Patrick born? \_\_\_\_\_
2. At the age of 16, what significant event happened to St. Patrick?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. As a slave, what was St. Patrick's job?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. While in Ireland, what language did St. Patrick learn?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. While alone in the fields tending to the sheep, what did St. Patrick do frequently?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. After returning to his family, what new desire did St. Patrick have?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. In what year did St. Patrick and his companions travel to Ireland as Missionaries?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What happened when St. Patrick tried to return to his former slave owner?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did St. Patrick use the shamrock for? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What did St. Patrick establish in Ireland? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What day is St. Patrick's Day celebrated each year? \_\_\_\_\_

## St Patrick's Day

The 17th of March is a special day known Research as 'Saint Patrick's Day'. The day got its name from Saint Patrick, the primary patron saint of Ireland. St Patrick's Day is celebrated all over the world and has even been celebrated inside the International Space Station! The colour associated with Saint Patrick was originally blue, but over the years it has converted to the colour green! Many cities, towns and villages inside and outside of Ireland usually have their own parade or festival to celebrate the exciting day, some festivals even last longer than a day! A popular tradition on St Patrick's Day is to pinch anybody not wearing green.

## SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

One of the world's most popular saints. Enslaved as a young teen by pagans and Druids, he turned to God while in captivity. Escaping at age 20, he returned to his family and began studying for the priesthood. He preached throughout Ireland converting many for 40 years. He died at Saul, site of the first church he built.



# HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

## MARCH 17th

Say no more



390 AD  
Patrick is born in Roman Briton

MARCH 17, 461  
Patrick dies

1762 — Irish soldiers in the British army march in New York City

AROUND 1800 — Irish immigrants begin using bagpipes and drums in their celebrations

1962 — Chicago begins dyeing the Chicago River green

9-10TH CENTURIES— Roman Catholics begin to hold a Feast Day on March 17.

AT AGE 16 Patrick is kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave  
LATER He escapes but returns to preach Catholicism to the Irish

1848 — Irish Aid societies come together and host the first large-scale parade  
LATE 1800s — Irish parades become a show of the numerical strength of the Irish immigrants

1948 — Harry Truman attends NYC Irish parade, signifying the acceptance of the Irish minority

1970s  
Ireland allows pubs to be open for St. Patrick's Day, making it less of a religious holiday

1995— Ireland begins a national campaign to use the holiday to grow tourism

### Fun Facts

**Saint Patrick's real name is Maewyn Succat. Try saying that five times, fast!** After becoming a priest, Maewyn adopted the name "Patrick" which means "well-born" in Latin. If you really want to test the breadth of your friends' knowledge, wish them a "Happy Maewyn Succat Day" and wait for their response. If they give you a high five, you know you're both equally as informed, weird and destined to be lifelong friends!

- **The first Saint Patrick's Day parade was not in Ireland, but in Boston.** - If there's one thing you should know about Boston, USA, it's that everyone will claim that they are part Irish at some point or another, even if they're not. No one knows why Bostonians and the Irish have such a strong emotional bond. Maybe it's the mass of people that immigrated here after the Great Potato Famine. It's important to note that Bostonians hosted the first St. Paddy's Day Parade, long before the Irish realized that that was their job.
- **Chicago dyes their main river green to celebrate the holiday.** Using a mixture of vegetable dye and other compounds, the city of Chicago dyes their main river green every year to commemorate the Irish holiday.
- **There are 10,000 three-leaf clovers for every 4-leaf clover.** The luck of finding a four-leaf clover is not exaggerated. Next time you find one (*if you find one*), spray it with hair-spray, stick it in a laminated folder and frame it on your wall with the caption "Thank God" beneath it because you may never find another one in your entire life!!

## Some Irish Humour

What's your  
**LEPRECHAUN**  
name?



The first letter of your name:

A - Adorable	H - Helpful	O - Outgoing
B - Bubbly	I - Itchy	P - Playful
C - Cheerful	J - Jolly	Q - Quiet
D - Dreamy	K - Kind	R - Restless
E - Eager	L - Lucky	S - Silly
F - Fussy	M - Musical	T - Timid
G - Grouchy	N - Noisy	U - Useful

V - Vibrant  
W - Witty  
X - X-tra Special  
Y - Youthful  
Z - Zany



The month you were born:

Jan. - McCheesy	May - McWiggles	Sept. - McBlarney
Feb. - O'Gratin	June - O'Lucky	Oct. - O'Doodles
March - McMuffin	July - McNoodles	Nov. - McWobbles
April - O'Really	Aug. - O'Wacky	Dec. - O'Goofy

<p>Q. What's Irish and stays out all night?</p> <p>A. Patty O' furniture !!</p>	<p>Q. When is an Irish potato <u>not</u> an Irish potato?</p> <p>A. When it's a FRENCH fry !!</p>
<p>Q. How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?</p> <p>A. He's DUBLIN over with laughter!</p>	<p>Q. What does a leprechaun call a happy man wearing green?</p> <p>A. A Jolly Green Giant!</p>
<p>Q. What do you get when 2 leprechauns have a conversation?</p> <p>A. A lot of small talk.</p>	<p>Q. Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?</p> <p>A. Because regular rocks are too heavy !!</p>
<p>Q. Where would you find a leprechaun baseball team?</p> <p>A. In <u>Little League</u> !!</p>	<p>Knock, knock. Who's there?</p> <p>Irish. Irish who?</p> <p>IRISH you a Happy St. Patrick's Day!</p>



# Some Prayers & Blessings for St Patrick's Day

## The Shield of St. Patrick

*Attributed to St. Patrick*

I bind unto myself today the strong name of the trinity, by invocation of the same, the Three in One, the One in Three.

I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead, his eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to harken to my need, the wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward, the Word of God to give me speech, his heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me;  
Christ to comfort and restore me;  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name, the strong name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same, the Three in One, and One in Three, of whom all nature hath creation, eternal Father, Spirit, Word; praise to the God of my salvation, salvation is of Christ the Lord!

