

A nice film to watch

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## About Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated each year on March 17<sup>th</sup>. In Ireland, Saint Patrick's Day is both a holy day and a national holiday. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland as he was the one who brought Christianity to the Irish.

Although it began in Ireland, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in countries around the world. People with Irish heritage remind themselves of the beautiful green countryside of Ireland by wearing green and taking part in the festivities.

### Saint Patrick and the Snakes:

Another tale about Patrick is that he drove the snakes from Ireland. Different versions of the story, tell of him standing upon a hill, using a wooden staff to drive the serpents into the sea, banishing them forever from Ireland.

One version says that an old serpent resisted banishment, but that Patrick outwitted him. Patrick made a box and invited the snake to enter. The snake insisted it was too small and the two argued. Finally to prove his point, the snake entered the box to show how tight the fit was. Patrick slammed the lid closed and threw the box into the sea.

Although it's true that Ireland has no snakes, this likely had more to do with the fact that Ireland is an island and being separated from the rest of the continent the snakes couldn't get there. The stories of Saint Patrick and the snakes are likely a metaphor for his bringing Christianity to Ireland and driving out the pagan religions (serpents were a common symbol in many of these religions).

- *St. Patrick was a patron of Ireland.*
- *St. Patrick was born in Bannavem Taberniae England around 386AD.*
- *He died on March 17th 460 AD.*
- *St. Patrick's Day or also known as St. Patrick Feast Day is celebrated on March 17th in honor of the anniversary of his death.*
- *St. Patrick's Feast Day became an office celebration in the 17th century.*
- *At the age of 16 St. Patrick was sold into slavery. He was brought to Ireland and worked as a shepherd.*
- *At the age of 22 he escaped slavery.*

- *He dedicated himself to the Christian religion. He studied in a monastery of Le'rins off the coast of France and in France with Saint Germanius a French Bishop.*
- *St. Patrick returned to Ireland in his 30's.*
- *He is credited for brining the religion of Christianity to Ireland.*
- *Legend says that St. Patrick used a shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to the Irish. He used the clover to represent three separate parts (3 leaves of the clover) of the same being. The first leaf was God the Father, second leaf the Son and the third leaf the Holy Spirit.*
- *The shamrock is now the offical flower of Ireland.*
- *The highest number of leaves found on a shamrock clover was 14. It is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.*
- *Legend says that finding a four-leaf clover on St. Patrick's Day will bring you luck. Each clover leaf represents something different. First leaf represents hope, second leaf represents faith, third leaf represents love and the fourth leaf represents luck.*
- *Did you know that the original color for St. Patrick was blue? In Irish legends and stories green was worn by fairies and immortals. It was also believed that wearing green would help make a good growing season for their crops in Ireland. Green became the color for St. Patrick's Day in the early 19th century.*
- *The color green represents Ireland.*
- *The Irish flag is green, white and orange. Green represents the people of the South, Orange represents the people of the North and White represents the peace that brings the North and South together.*
- *During the St. Patrick's Day Festival there is a parade, carnival, treasure hunt and dances.*
- *In Ireland people wear shamrocks on their jackets and hats. Children wear green, white and orange (colors of their flag) and girls wear green ribbons in their hair.*
- *Did you know that a [leprechaun](#) is a type of fairy in Irish folklore.*
- *Legend says that leprechauns spend all their time making shoes. They store their coins in a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. If a leprechaun is caught by a human they have special powers to grant that human three wishes. Once those wishes are granted the human has to let the leprechaun go.*
- *Many states have parades. The first St. Patrick's Day Parade was not in Ireland but in Boston. The Boston parade started in in 1737!*
- Most people, whether they are Irish or not, wear green on this day. One of the Irish traditions is to pinch anyone who is not wearing green on St. Patrick's Day.
- Corned beef and cabbage are traditional foods eaten on this holiday.
- The shamrock, pot-of-gold and leprechauns are also associated with St. Patrick's Day. The shamrock was worn as a badge on the lapel. Three is Ireland's magic number and the three petals that make up the shamrock are supposed to bring good luck. The three leaves also represent the Trinity in the Christian religion.

- The leprechaun is a small Irish fairy. He is dressed like a shoemaker, with pointed shoes and hat. He also wears a leather apron. Leprechauns are supposed to be unfriendly little men who lives alone in the forest, spending all of their time making shoes and guarding their treasures. If someone catches a leprechaun, he will be forced to tell where he hides all his pots of gold. However, the leprechaun must be watched at all times. If his captor looks away, the leprechaun will vanish along with his treasure.
- Saint Patrick is known as the Apostle of Ireland, who brought Christianity to Ireland.
- The shamrock is Ireland's national flower. It is also one of the main symbols of St. Patrick, which represents the Holy Trinity. The three-leafed plant is often used as a badge.

Patrick was a missionary who helped to bring Christianity to Ireland. He is the patron saint of Ireland.

What do people do to celebrate? There are a number of traditions and ways to celebrate this day. For many years the day was celebrated as a religious holiday. People in Ireland and other areas of the world went to church services to celebrate. Many people still celebrate the day this way. There are also lots of festivals and parades on this day to celebrate Irish culture. Most major cities have some sort of St. Patrick's Day parade. The city of Chicago has a fun custom where they dye the Chicago River green each year. Probably the main way to celebrate St. Patrick's is to wear green. Green is the main color and symbol of the day. People not only wear green, but they dye their food green. People eat all sorts of green foods such as green hot dogs, green cookies, green bread, and green drinks. Other fun traditions of the holiday include the shamrock (three leafed clover plant), Irish music played with bagpipes, eating corned beef and cabbage, and leprechauns.

### Fun Facts About Saint Patrick's Day

It was named the "Friendliest Day of the Year" by the Guinness Book of World Records.

### The Legend of St Patrick

Celebrated on 17th March

Patrick was born in Britain in the year 387. His real name is Maewyn Succat. The name St. Patrick was given to him later in life by Pope Celestine. His parents, Calphurnius and Conchessa belonged to a high ranking Roman family. St. Patrick recorded most of the history of his life and his spiritual writings in the "Confessio" (Confession).

When he was 16, he was captured by pagan Irish raiders and sold into slavery to a chieftain named Meliuc in Antrim, Ireland. He spent his teen years and time alone as a shepherd to tend to his master's sheep. During this time, his spirituality awakened and his belief in God became strong. He would pray many times in a day. After 6 years being in slavery, he had a dream that he would find a ship to take him to freedom. He escaped to follow his dream. He had to travel about 200 miles before he found a ship ready to set sail.

He managed to return to his family and home. Although Patrick was born a British, he considered himself an Irish because it was in Ireland that he discovered God. He had another vision. This vision would take him back to Ireland to preach the Gospel later. After his escape, he visited the St. Martin's monastery at Tours. He also visited the island sanctuary of Lerins. He placed himself under the guidance of a bishop named, St. Germain (Germanus). Patrick was promoted to priesthood later. He stayed in Britain for eighteen years. During those years, he was still haunted by memories of Ireland and would often speak of his experiences in Ireland with St. Germain. The Bishop, St. Germain recommended Patrick to the pope. Patrick requested to be sent to Ireland but was denied. Palladius was chosen instead. When Palladius died, Patrick was chosen to be sent to Ireland. He was called to Rome and made a Bishop by Pope Celestine in 432 before he went on his mission to Ireland. It was during that occasion that the name "Patercius" or "Patritius" was given to him. The name comes from two Latin words, "pater civium" meaning "the father of his people".

He suffered many trials as a missionary in Ireland. St. Patrick was imprisoned by the Druids but managed to escape. There are also many legends which talks about the miracles and magical fights between him and the Druids.

He spent the next 28 years traveling across the countryside to spread the word of God. He could do this easily as he was fluent with the Celtic language. He succeeded in converting almost the entire population of the island.

St. Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, on the 17 March, 461 A.D at the age of 76. He is believed to be buried in Downpatrick, County Down. This is why we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on the seventeenth of March. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.