

**SO MANY COUNTRIES,
SO MANY TRADITIONS.**





Great Britain.

The Trooping of the Colour



The Queen is only person in Britain with two birthdays. Her real birthday is on April 21st, but she has an "official" birthday, too. That's on the second Saturday in June- there is a traditional ceremony called The Trooping of the Colour.

The Queen`s soldiers



The Queen's soldiers, the Guards, march in front of her. At the front of the parade is the flag or "colour".

Horse Guards Parade



- The Guards are trooping the colour. Thousands of Londoners and visitors watch Horse Guards Parade. And millions of people at home watch it on television.

HOGMANAY



Scotland



It is celebrated in Scotland on the 31 of December. Preparations begin in December when shops are full of people buying gifts.



Everything is decorated in traditional way.



All towns are decorated with colourful twinkling lights.



People gather in town squares and wait for midnight



Hogmanay is a great time for everyone. It's the best time of the year to have fun and enjoy yourself.

May Day.

- May Day is the day when people celebrate the end of winter and the arrival of Spring.





Since ancient times, people all over Europe have held festivals on 1 May.



Every village puts up a maypole.



Other May Day customs include the following: dance around the maypole.

Mother's Day



The custom of honoring mother's day began thousands years ago. Now it is celebrated in many different countries in spring.

On this day children give thanks for the support, love, care and guidance which mothers provide.





This expression of thanks often takes the form of a special dinner, either home cooked or in the favourite restaurant.



Giving cards or gifts is also a tradition.



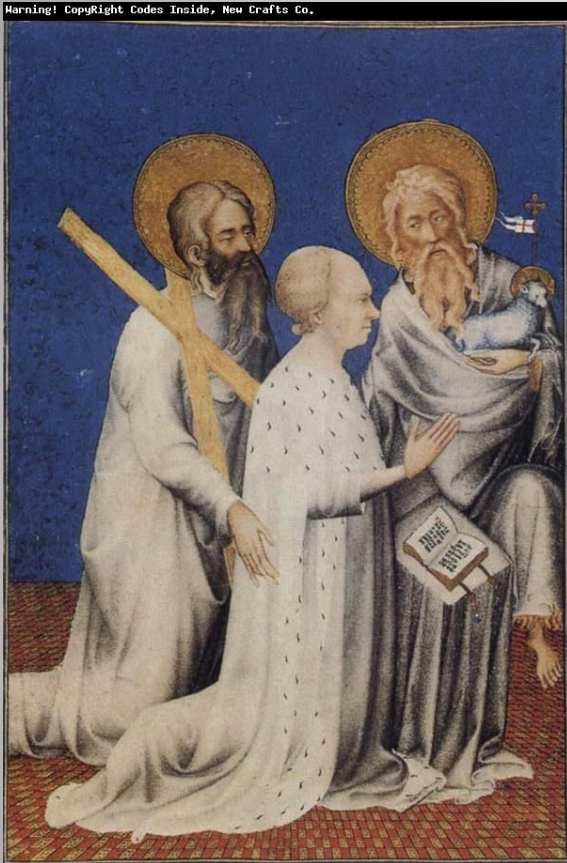


Patrons



St. Andrew

- St. Andrew's Day (the 30th of November) is regarded as Scotland's national day. On this day some Scotsmen wear a thistle in their buttonhole. The Order of the Thistle is one of the highest orders of knighthood. It was founded in 1687, and is mainly given to Scottish noblemen (limited to 16 in number).





George



St. George's Day falls on 23

April and is regarded as England's national day.

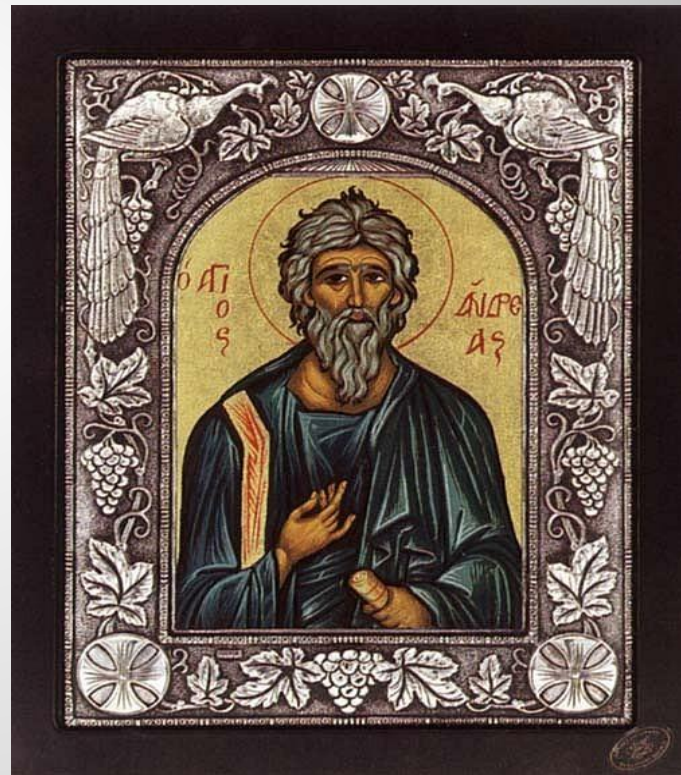
On this day some patriotic Englishmen wear a rose pinned to their jackets,

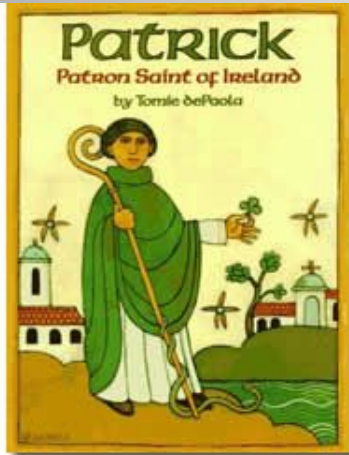
A red rose is the national emblem of England from the time of the Wars of the Roses {15th century}.

St. David

St. David's Day (the 1st of March) is the church festival of St. David, a 6th-century monk and bishop, the patron saint of Wales. The day is regarded as the national holiday of Wales, although it is not an official bank holiday.

On this day, however, many Welshmen wear either a yellow daffodil or a leek pinned to their jackets, as both plants are traditionally regarded as national emblems of Wales.





St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day (the 17th of March) is considered as a national day in Northern Ireland and an official bank holiday there. Irish people all over the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day in New York, Chicago and Boston in the USA because lots of Irish people live there.



The end