

St. Patrick's day



Who St. Patrick was?

St. Patrick's Day has its origin in ancient times. Legend tells us that a young boy named Patrick lived in the British Isles. At the age of 16 Patrick was captured by Irish people, who often raided the territory of the British Isles.



Celts and druids

They brought him to Ireland.

At that time Ireland was a pagan country. It was inhabited by Celts and their priests were druids. Patrick lived there for several years. He was a shepherd.



The power of praing

Being a religious boy, every day he prayed that he would be able to return to his homeland.



According to a legend,

one night while he was praying, a voice told him to go to the seaside and find a ship that was waiting for him in a harbour.

Patrick did what he was told,

got aboard the ship and managed to sail to Great Britain.



Important mission

But in the year of 423 Patrick returned to Ireland as a missionary. He travelled from village to village and talked about the Christ. He believed that he was called by God to perform this important mission and convert the Celtic people to the Christian religion



But they didn't understand him and didn't believe in the Holy Trinity. One day Patrick picked up one of the plentiful shamrocks, growing wild in Ireland. It struck him how to explain.



shamrock

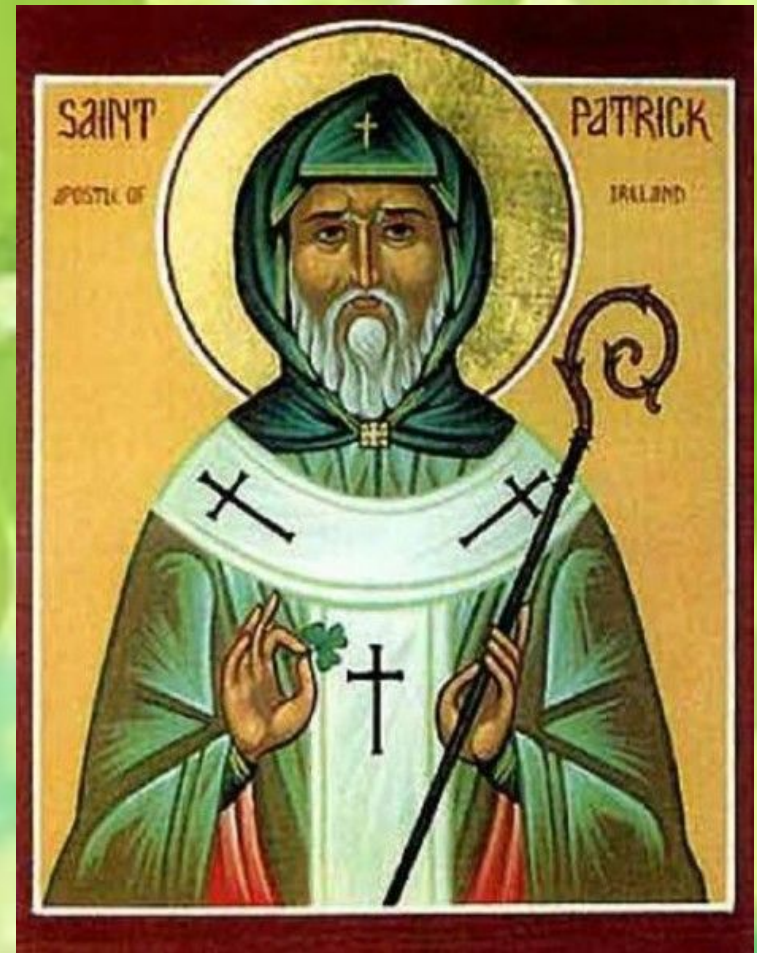
«Here are there leaves», he said to the people «but yet one plant. Imagine the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit as each of three leaves. Here they are and they are the one.»



From that time on, the shamrock has become the symbol of Ireland.

A patron saint of Ireland

St. Patrick is revered as a patron saint of Ireland. The stories of his miracles reached far and wide. There is a legend that he got rid of all the snakes in Ireland.



Ireland's national holiday.

St. Patrick died on the 17th of March. First, it was a day of mourning but then it turned to commemoration of him and his deeds. But the 17th of March is not only St. Patrick celebration. It is an Ireland's national holiday.



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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

National colour of the country

On that day Irish people all over the world put on green clothes and go out to the streets. As you probably know, green colour is a national colour of the country.



So, people wear green hats, shirts, ties and hair ribbons and green stirpes are painted on the streets.



**Goodbye
and enjoy St. Patrick`s day!**



