

***Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day is named after the most commonly recognized of the patron saints of Ireland. It began as a purely Catholic holiday and became an official feast day in the early 17th century. Irish folklore tells that one of his teaching methods included using the shamrock to explain the Christian doctrine of the Trinity to the Irish people.

WEARING OF THE GREEN

Originally, the color associated with Saint Patrick was blue. Over the years the color green and its association with Saint Patrick's day grew. Green ribbons and shamrocks, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish, and the wearing and display of shamrocks and shamrock-inspired designs have become a ubiquitous feature of the day. In the 1798 rebellion, in hopes of making a political statement, Irish soldiers wore full green uniforms on 17 March in hopes of catching public attention. The phrase "the wearing of the green", meaning to wear a shamrock on one's clothing, derives from a song of the same name.

IN IRELAND

Saint Patrick's feast day, as a kind of national day, was already being celebrated by the Irish in Europe in the ninth and tenth centuries. In later times he became more and more widely known as the patron of Ireland. Saint Patrick's feast day was finally placed on the universal liturgical calendar in the Catholic Church due to the influence of Waterford-born Franciscan scholar Luke Wadding in the early 1600s. Saint Patrick's Day thus became a holy day of obligation for Roman Catholics in Ireland. The church calendar avoids the observance of saints' feasts during certain solemnities, moving the saint's day to a time outside those periods. Saint Patrick's Day is occasionally affected by this requirement, when 17 March falls during Holy Week. This happened in 1940, when Saint Patrick's Day was observed on 3 April in order to avoid it coinciding with Palm Sunday, and again in 2008, where it was officially observed on 14 March (15 March being used for St. Joseph, which had to be moved from March 19), although the secular celebration still took place on 17 March. Saint Patrick's Day will not fall within Holy Week again until 2160.

IN THE UNITED STATES

Irish Society of Boston organized what was not only the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in the colonies but the first recorded St. Patrick's Day Parade in the world on 18 March 1737. (The first parade in Ireland did not occur until 1931 in Dublin.) This parade in Boston involved Irish immigrant workers marching to make a political statement about how they were not happy with their low social status and their inability to obtain jobs in America. New York's first St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on 17 March 1762 by Irish soldiers in the British Army. ***(excerpted from: en.wikipedia.org)



St. Patrick's Burial Place

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A NINE DAY NOVENA TO SAINT PATRICK MARCH 8—16



*...Saint Patrick obtain for me grace,
to love God with my whole heart,
to serve him with my whole strength,
and to persevere in good purposes to the end...*

NOVENA TO SAINT PATRICK MARCH 8-16

A Bit about Saint Patrick

Novenas are usually prayed for nine days, ending on the day before the Feast day of the Saint.

*Blessed Saint Patrick, glorious Apostle of Ireland,
who didst become a friend and father to me for ages before my birth,
hear my prayer and accept, for God, the sentiments of
gratitude and veneration with which my heart is filled.
Through thee I have inherited that faith which is dearer than life.
I now make thee the representative of my thanks, and the mediator
of my homage to Almighty God.
Most holy Father and patron of my country, despise not my weakness;
remember that the cries of little children were the sounds that rose,
like a mysterious voice from heaven, and invited thee to come amongst us.
Listen, then, to my humble supplication;
may my hope be animated by the patronage and intercession
of our forefathers, who now enjoy eternal bliss and owe their salvation,
under God, to thy courage and charity.
Obtain for me grace to love God with my whole heart,
to serve him with my whole strength,
and to persevere in good purposes to the end,
O faithful shepherd of the Irish flock, who wouldst have laid
down a thousand lives to save one soul, take my soul,
and the souls of my countrymen under thy special care.
Be a father to the Church of Ireland and her faithful people.
Grant that, as our ancestors of old had learned, under thy guidance,
to unite science with virtue, we too, may learn,
under thy patronage, to consecrate all Christian duty to the glory of God.
I commend to thee my native land, which was so dear to thee while on earth.
Protect it still, and, above all,
direct its chief pastors, particularly those who teach us.
Give them grace to walk in thy footsteps,
to nurture the flock with the word of life and the bread of salvation,
and to lead the heirs of the Saints thou has formed
to the possession of that glory which they, with Thee,
enjoy in the kingdom of the Blessed:
through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen
(mention your request)

V. Pray for us, O glorious Saint Patrick.
R. And obtain for us the intention of this Novena

3 Our Fathers, 3 Aves, 3 Glory Be's

***(excerpted from: www.catholicdoors.com)**

******It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. (There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.) During this time he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. (It is also believed that Patrick first began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity)

After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writings, a voice-which he believed to be God's-spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland.

To do so, Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced a second revelation-an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than fifteen years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission-to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. (Interestingly, this mission contradicts the widely held notion that Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland.)

Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish.

******(excerpted from: www.history.com)