

St. Martin

Martin was born the son of a soldier c.315 in what is now part of Hungary. He was brought up and educated in Italy and served as a Roman soldier in one of the legions in France. The story of Martin giving up his winter cloak to a beggar is said to have taken place at Amiens in northern France, and was part of his conversion to Christianity.

In 360 he is said to have founded the first monastery in France and ten years later he was made Bishop of Tours. He died c.400 and has been remembered since as an active missionary and evangeliser of rural France, during the difficult period of the crumbling Roman Empire in Gaul. His influence soon spread, from Ireland to Africa. In this country many churches are dedicated to him, the best known being St Martin-in-the-Fields. He is the patron saint of soldiers, beggars and innkeepers.



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
Which pictures did you like?
Which part of the story did you like?
- ③ Talk to the children about how Martin managed to follow Jesus' example.
- ④ Talk about Martin living alone in a cave. What problems would he have faced?
- ⑤ Martin became a Bishop, ask the children to see if they can find out who is the Bishop where they live.

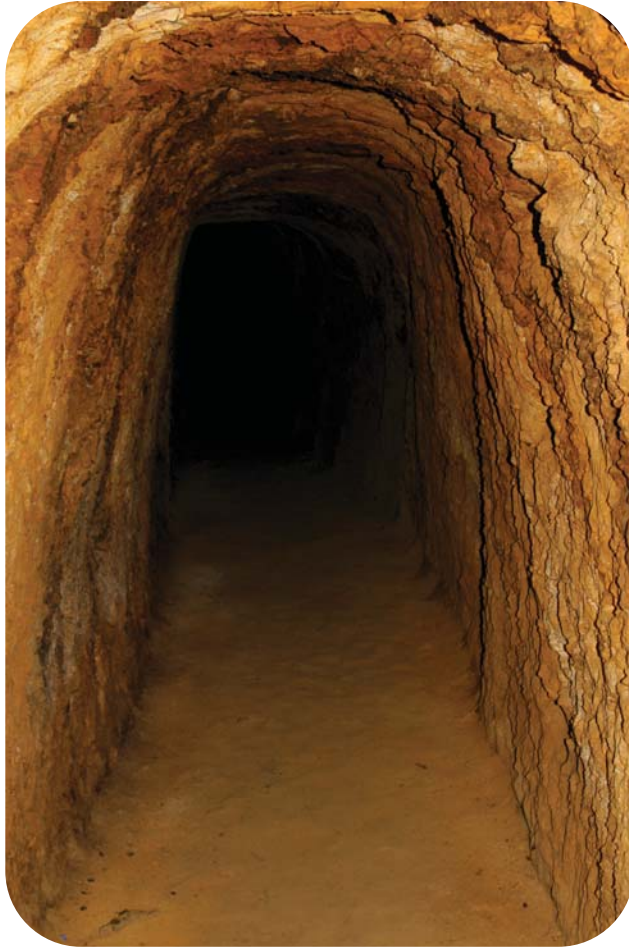
The story of St. Martin



**Martin learnt about
Jesus while serving
in the Roman Army.**



**He tried to be like Jesus
when he saw a beggar
shivering with cold. He
took off his cloak, cut it in
half, and gave half to the
beggar to keep him warm.**



**Martin left the army
and for a while he
lived by himself in a
cave praying to God.**



Later he was invited to be a bishop, and he travelled preaching the good news about Jesus. He built churches and monasteries.