

# St. Patrick's Day Religious Festival Story



Religious Education KS1

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# St. Patrick's Day



Patrick was born into a Christian family towards the end of the fourth century AD, probably in South west Scotland. In his mid-teens he was kidnapped and made a slave in Ireland. Following a vision, he escaped and found his way back to his home. Within a few years he left to become a monk in southern France. Firstly in the famous monastery at Lerins and later at Auxerre, where he was ordained and later made a bishop before being sent, at his own request, back to Ireland. Once there he set about converting and organising people, established churches and monasteries, consecrated bishops and confirmed abbots in monastic foundations. The Irish Church which Patrick established was strongly ascetic and monastic, and was closely linked with the existing clan structure of society. In the mid-5th century he established his archiepiscopal see at Armagh.

Until the 7th century the Irish observances differed from those of the mainstream Roman tradition, but the doctrine remained true to it. Little is known of his life, even though many legends and stories have been written. Only brief glimpses can be gleaned from his "Confessions" a letter written to Curoticus, a leader of some Welsh Christian raiders and in a poem, "Lorica" ("Breastplate") which may have been written by him.



# The story of St. Patrick



Patrick grew up in Scotland, but was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland.





He was sold as a slave but later escaped and went to France.  
He joined a monastery to learn more about Jesus.





He returned to Ireland as a Bishop. At Easter, he lit a big fire and said that he had come to Ireland to light God's fire which would never go out.





St. Patrick used a Shamrock to teach people about God, and how he could be understood. God was One, but in three parts just like the Shamrock.

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; three people in One.





The **Shamrock** is the emblem of Ireland.





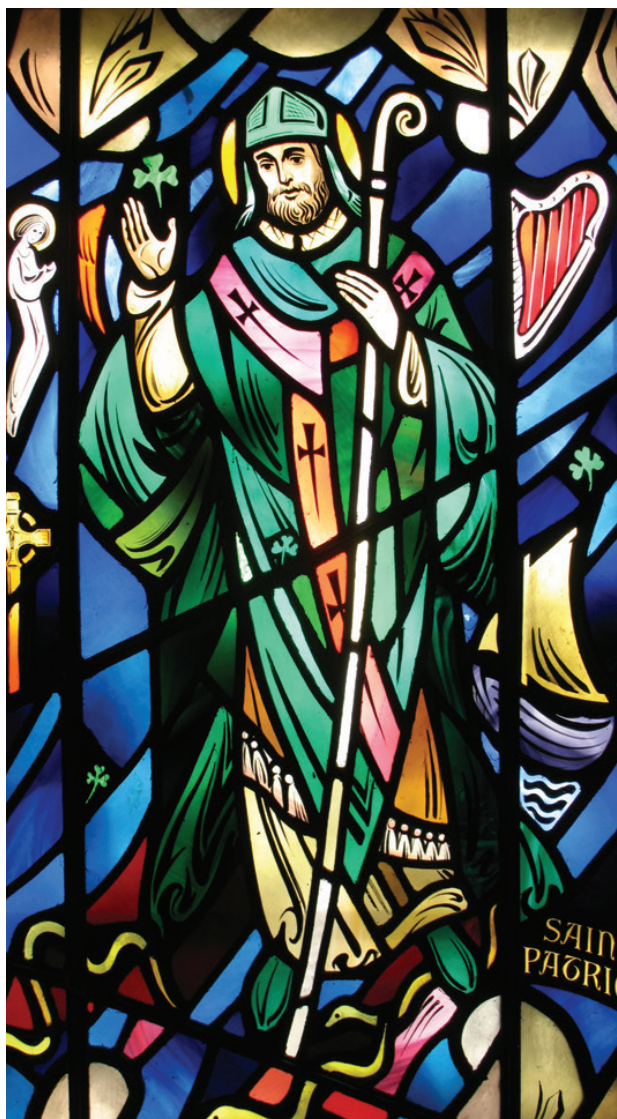
There is also another story about St. Patrick. He was said to have got rid of all the snakes that were in Ireland.

"Success to bold St. Patrick's fist, he was a saint so clever, He gave the snakes and toads a twist, and banished them forever."

By Richard Madden.

So St. Patrick became the Patron Saint of Ireland.





## Questions

Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-

Which part of the story did you like the best?

Was there any part you did not like?

Which picture(s) did you like?

Talk to the children about pirates and ask them to find out more about them. Get them to dress up as a pirate. You will find a pirate hat craft, and other pirate themed activities on iChild.

Ask the children to try to find a shamrock or 3 leafed clover. They can then draw a picture of a Shamrock and talk about three important things in their life.

Find some pictures of snakes. Talk to the children about how snakes might frighten them/or not.

You can also find St. Patrick's Day colouring in sheets and craft activity templates in the St. Patrick's Day section on iChild.