



NEWSLETTER



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Saint Patrick's day

May the leprechauns be near you
To spread luck along your way.
And may all the Irish angels
Smile upon you St. Patrick's Day.
Beannachtai na feile Padraig
Happy St. Patrick's Day



Saint Patrick was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of the island along with Saints Brigit and Columba.

The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty but, on a widespread interpretation, he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the second half of the fifth century. He is generally credited with being the first bishop of Armagh, Primate of Ireland.

When he was about 16, he was captured from his home in Great Britain, and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland. In later life, he served as an ordained bishop, but little is known about the places where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.

Saint Patrick's Day is observed on March 17th, the date of his death. It is celebrated inside and outside Ireland as a religious and cultural holiday. In the dioceses of Ireland, it is both a solemnity and a holy day of obligation; it is also a celebration of Ireland itself.

It was while on the top of the mountain that St. Patrick drove all the snakes in Ireland to the sea. Historians generally agree that this myth serves as a metaphor for St. Patrick's good works. Since snakes are a common pagan symbol — and are not found in Ireland — this tale symbolizes St. Patrick's driving paganism out of Ireland.

Some believed that St. Patrick explained the concept of the Trinity in Christianity using a shamrock he found growing at his feet. More likely, the three-part leaf was worn by the people of Ireland as a symbol of the cross. It is assumed, however, that St. Patrick knew about the significance of the shamrock in other religious and pagan traditions, and may have incorporated it into his explanations and teachings.



The Shamrock (Le Trèfle)

The green shamrock (trefoil or *seamair Óg*) is the national symbol of Ireland. The Druids, ancestors of the modern Irish people, believed in the holiness of the trefoil because of a sacred symbol formed by its three leaves. The number three figures prominently in other religions, too. To Christians its leaves form a cross and serve to represent the Trinity. It was thought that followers of St. Patrick wore a shamrock on his feast day. Legend also has it that snakes avoid trefoil, and that it is a remedy for snake and scorpion bites.



**A traditional blessing:
For each petal on the shamrock
This brings a wish your way
Good health, good luck, and happiness
For today and every day.**



The Leprechauns

In their book "The Element Encyclopedia of Magical Creatures," John and Caitlin Matthews trace leprechaun legends back to eighth-century legends of water spirits called "luchorpán," meaning small body. These sprites eventually merged with a mischievous household fairy said to haunt cellars and drink heavily.

Other researchers say that the word leprechaun may be derived from the Irish *leath bhrogan*, meaning shoemaker. Indeed, though leprechauns are often associated with riches and gold, in folklore their main vocation is anything but glamorous: they are humble cobblers, or shoemakers. Shoemaking is apparently a lucrative business in the fairy world, since each leprechaun is said to have his own pot of gold, which can often be found at the end of a rainbow.



According to Irish legends, people lucky enough to find a leprechaun and capture him (or, in some stories, steal his magical ring, coin or amulet) can barter his freedom for his treasure. Leprechauns are usually said to be able to grant the person three wishes. But dealing with leprechauns can be a tricky proposition.

Leprechauns offer a morality tale figure whose fables warn against the folly of trying to get rich quick, take what's not rightfully yours or interfere with "The Good Folk" and other magical creatures. Belief in leprechauns and other fairies was once widespread on the Emerald Isle, and real or not they will continue to amuse and delight us for centuries more.



Why Wear Green on St. Patrick's Day?

No matter your heritage, everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day. And that means you should wear green. But why?

Although some historical accounts originally link the color blue with St. Patrick's Day, that changed in the 17th century when green became the holiday's special color.

Here are the four reasons green is equated with St. Patrick's Day:

- 🍀 **Green is one of the three colors in the Irish flag.**
- 🍀 **With its lush, green landscape, Ireland is known as the "Emerald Isle."**
- 🍀 **Green is the color of spring.**
- 🍀 **Green is the color of the shamrock.**

Originally a Roman Catholic feast day for Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick's Day was only celebrated in Ireland before the 1600s. By the 1700s, it had evolved into a secular holiday as Irish immigrants to the United States began holding the first St. Patrick's Day parades.



These festivities were a chance to not only show off their patriotism for Ireland, but also make a political statement about their discontent with their low social status in America.

Why do we eat corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's Day?

Although cabbage and potatoes are staples of the Irish diet, the traditional meat eaten on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland is Irish bacon--not corned beef. Because Irish immigrants to the United States could not afford Irish bacon, they substituted corned beef, a much cheaper meat they learned about from Jewish immigrants.

If you forget to wear green, why will you get pinched?

If you don't wear green on St. Patrick's Day, prepare to be pinched. But only if you're in the United States. This is an American tradition that is traced to the 1700s. An old Irish legend has it that those who wear green are invisible to leprechauns, those fairy creatures who randomly pinch people no matter what color they're wearing. So folks started pinching anyone who didn't wear green as a reminder of the leprechauns and their sneaky ways.

Voici, une belle chanson tirée du folklore irlandais.

Ecoute, comme elle est douce à l'oreille.

Son titre est " When Irish Eyes are smiling "

Dans la chanson on dit :

Quand les yeux des Irlandais sont souriants, c'est comme un matin de printemps,

Qu'à travers leurs éclats de rire, on peut entendre chanter les anges.

C'est beau n'est-ce pas!

