

St. Patrick's Day (17th March)



This holiday is celebrated every March 17

- March 17 is the saint's religious feast day and the anniversary of his death.
- While originally this was a catholic holy day that celebrated the baptismation of Ireland, it has evolved into a more secular holiday.
- This is a religious holiday the Irish have been observing for over 1000 years—ever since the 9th or 10th century.



EUROPE

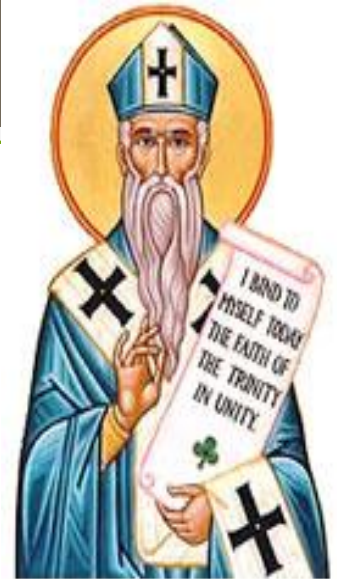
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IRELAND

Who is St. Patrick?

- He is the patron saint and national **apostle** (apôtre) of Ireland.
- He was born in the 2nd half of the 4th century **AD** (Anno Domini = année du seigneur) and died on March 17th 461 AD
- Exact birthplace is unknown—either Scotland or Roman England
- He was credited to bringing Christianity to the Irish. For 20 years he traveled around Ireland converting and baptizing the Gaelic Irish to Christians. He also established monasteries , schools, and churches.
- He was sold into slavery and imprisoned in Ireland by a band of pirates. Taken from his country to Ireland. After 6 years he escaped. He lived in France in a monastery and studied under St.Germain but came back to Ireland after 12 years of **training** (formation). He even became a **bishop** (évêque).



SOME LEGENDS ABOUT ST PATRICK

- Some of these legends recall how Patrick **raised** (ici ressusciter) people from the dead, others that he drove all the snakes from Ireland. The latter would **indeed** (en effet) have been a miracle, as snakes have never been present on the island of Ireland. As in many old pagan religions, serpent symbols were common and often **worshipped** (vénéérés). Driving the snakes from Ireland was probably symbolic of putting an end to that pagan practice
- Another Irish tale which may also have an element of truth about it tells how Patrick used the three-leafed **shamrock** (trèfle) to explain the Trinity. He apparently used it to show how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing the shamrock on his feast day, and shamrock green remains the essential colour for today's festivities and celebrations.



Shamrocks



Special symbols of this day

The most common St Patrick's Day symbol is the shamrock. Many people choose to wear the color green and the flag of the Republic of Ireland is often seen in St Patrick's Day parades around the world. Irish brands (marques) of drinks are popular at St Patrick's Day events.

Religious symbols include snakes, as well as the Celtic cross. Some say that Saint Patrick added the Sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross.

leprechaun



Other Irish-related symbols seen on St Patrick's Day include the harp, which was used in Ireland for centuries, as well as a mythological creature known as the leprechaun (lutin, farfadet) and a pot of gold that the leprechaun keeps hidden (caché).



ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN AMERICA

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in the United States.

On March 17th, 1762, Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York.

This became a special time to reconnect with ones Irish roots.



- This celebration may consist of parades (with **bagpipes**= cornemuses), concerts, and **fireworks** (feux d'artifice) shows.
- People of all backgrounds celebrate St. Patrick's day, especially throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia.
Annually over one million people celebrate St. Patrick's day festival in Dublin.
(cliquer sur le lien vidéo ci dessous)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=py3cvo1vqSE>

As Irish immigrants **spread**(se répandre) over the U.S.A, cities developed their own traditions on how to celebrate this day.

One unique tradition that started in Chicago was the **dyeing (teinture)** of the Chicago River **GREEN**. This practice began in 1962 when the river was green for a week due to 100 pounds of green vegetable dye. Now in order to minimize environmental damage, only 40 pounds are used and the river stays green for a few hours.



USA State Capitals & Major Cities



CHICAGO

NEW YORK

SAVANNAH



Due to a rich Irish heritage around the area of Savannah, the second largest St. Patrick's day **gathering** (rassemblement) in the USA is in Savannah, Georgia. It was first celebrated in 1813.





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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J680_aKF5zc



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LA ST PATRICK en France

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