

Learn About the Saints



St. Patrick | March 17

Biography

Whether you know him as the man who brought Christianity to Ireland or simply as a reason you eat corned beef and cabbage in March, St. Patrick (415 – 493) is a well-known saint around the world.

St. Patrick was born in Britain of a Romanized family. At the age of 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders from the villa of his father, a deacon and local official, and brought into slavery in Ireland. He spent six long years there as a herdsman, during which he turned to his faith for strength. He later escaped back to Britain on a ship, where he was eventually reunited with his family.

His years of captivity changed him and brought out a zeal for God and a yearning to spread the message of Jesus Christ. Despite the constant danger of martyrdom, he continued to travel throughout Ireland where he baptized and confirmed in the name of Christ. He is said to have used the shamrock to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – to the Irish people. His missionary work converted thousands, and he is credited with helping to lay the foundation for Ireland's deep and lasting Christian faith.

St. Patrick is the patron saint of engineers, those afraid of snakes/for protection against snake bites, Ireland, and Nigeria. He is the patron saint of engineers because of the many churches he built in Ireland.

