

# Saint Patrick

## What Is a Patron Saint?

A patron saint is saint who looks after and guides a person or place. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and is very special to Irish people.

## When Was Saint Patrick Born?

We do not know exactly when Saint Patrick was born because he lived such a long time ago. People think that he was born in the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

## What Were Saint Patrick's Family Like?

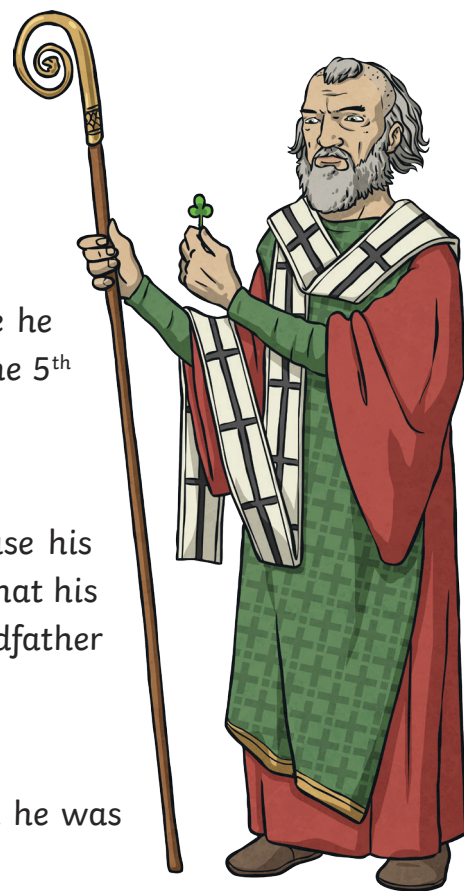
People think that Saint Patrick's family were quite rich because his father had an important job in Ancient Rome. They also think that his family were very religious because both his father and his grandfather had jobs in the church.

## Why Did Saint Patrick Go to Ireland?

Saint Patrick was taken to Ireland by a group of pirates when he was 16 years old. He was made to work as a slave.

## When Did Saint Patrick Become Religious?

Saint Patrick started to pray when he was a slave. One night, he heard a voice telling him that he would be able to go home soon because a ship was waiting for him. That night, Patrick ran away. He found a ship and sailed away from Ireland. Patrick got to Britain three days later. He walked through the forest for 28 days and started to feel ill because he was so hungry. Patrick prayed that he would find something to eat soon. Suddenly, Patrick found a group of wild pigs in the forest. He knew that his prayers had been answered.



## Did You Know...?

- Saint Patrick used a plant with three leaves (called a shamrock) to teach people about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Some people believe that there are no snakes in Ireland because Saint Patrick sent them all away!
- It is said that Saint Patrick would talk for so long that his walking stick would grow roots into the ground.

## Why Did Saint Patrick Go Back to Ireland?

When Patrick got home, he became a Christian priest. A few years later, he heard a voice telling him to go back to Ireland and help the Irish people. He chose to go back to Ireland and teach people about Christianity. Patrick taught thousands of Irish people about Christianity and built lots of churches across the country.

## Why Do People Celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

After teaching people about Christianity for over 40 years, Patrick died on 17<sup>th</sup> March 461. The people of Ireland have never forgotten how special Patrick was to their country and celebrate St. Patrick's Day every year on this day.

