St Patrick's Day: Everything you need to know

newsround

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Millions of people around the world celebrate St Patrick's Day on 17 March every year.

It is a celebration of Irish history and culture, and is a national holiday in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and is celebrated for bringing Christianity to the country.

He is thought to have grown up in Britain, during Roman times, but was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave.

Once he was free again, he trained as a priest, and went back to Ireland to convert thousands of people to Christianity.

The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty, but sometime after 431 AD, Patrick was appointed as successor to St Palladius, the first bishop of Ireland.

The shamrock: Did you know?

The three-leaved plant, symbolic of Ireland and of St Patrick's Day has an important meaning for Christians.
It is said to represent the Holy Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three leaves of a shamrock are also said to stand for faith, hope and love.



Saint Patrick's Day Animated History

St Patrick's Day Quiz

How much do you know about this celebration of Irish culture?

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