

## Saint Patrick's Day



Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and every year on the 17th of March. Irish people all over the world have a huge celebration in his honour. He was born in Wales, which is just across the sea from Ireland. It was the year 373 and the Romans still ruled that part of the world. Many of the people in Wales and Ireland were Druids who **worshipped** the sun and other aspects of nature. But Patrick was a Christian. When Patrick was 16 years old, he was walking along the beach and some pirates **seized** him. They took him to Ireland and sold him as a slave where he worked in the fields. One day he heard god telling him to escape and he ran down to see where he found ship waiting to take him home. When he was grown up, he heard a voice telling him to return to Ireland and to tell people there about Christianity which is what he did. Patrick travelled the **length and breadth** of Ireland and had many adventures while he **spread his message**. Quite often the druid **priests** were very angry at him for telling their followers to change their religion and his life was always in great danger.

Ireland is a very rainy country, and the fields are emerald green. One of the most common plants that grows among the grass is the **shamrock**. It's like a small **clover** with three leaves. Saint Patrick used to pick up the shamrock and explain that the three leaves were three aspects of god – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Saint Patrick is also famous for driving all the snakes into the sea so that to this day there are no snakes **lurking** in the beautiful green grass of Ireland. The shamrock and the snakes are the most famous stories about Saint Patrick.

### GLOSSARY

Shamrock: a clover of three leaves. (Un trébol)

Worship: adorar

Spread the message: difundir el mensaje

Length and breadth: a lo largo y ancho

