



### **Saint Patrick's Day**

Saint Patrick's Day, feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of a).....Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in b)..... late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as c)..... slave. He escaped but returned about 432 to convert d)..... Irish to e)..... Christianity. By f)..... time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established g)..... monasteries, h).....churches, and i)..... schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove j)..... snakes out of Ireland and used k)..... shamrock to explain l)..... Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

It was m).....emigrants, particularly to n)..... United States, who transformed St. Patrick's Day into o)..... largely secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish. Cities with p)..... large numbers of Irish immigrants, who often wielded r)..... political power, staged s)..... most extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades. t).....Boston held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737, followed by u).....New York City in 1762. Since 1962 Chicago has coloured its river green to mark w)..... holiday. (Although blue was v)..... colour traditionally associated with St. Patrick, green is now commonly connected with x)..... day.) Irish and non-Irish alike commonly participate in y)..... “wearing of the green”—sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock, the Irish national plant, in the lapel. Corned beef and cabbage are associated with the holiday, and even z).....beer is sometimes dyed green to celebrate the day. Although some of these practices eventually were adopted by the Irish themselves, they did so largely for the benefit of tourists.