

St Patrick

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales in about AD 385. When he was fourteen, he was captured by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd sheep. Ireland was a pagan country, but he learned the language and customs of the people who had kidnapped him.

When he was twenty, Patrick escaped from Ireland and went to Britain where he studied to be a priest. He later became a bishop and was sent back to Ireland to preach the Gospel to the pagans. He used a shamrock to explain the trinity, so the shamrock has been associated with him and the Irish ever since.

Patrick preached and converted most of the people in Ireland during the thirty years he lived there. He built many churches, schools, and monasteries all over Ireland also. Patrick was a humble and gentle man who was totally devoted to God and who trusted God completely. He died in Ireland on March 17, 461.

