

TRANSCRIPT – ST PATRICK'S DAY: THE VIDEO

Saint Patrick was a Christian missionary. Some scholars say he was born in England, while others believe he was Italian. Most people think he lived in the fifth century.

When he was sixteen, he was captured and taken as a slave to Ireland. He lived like a slave for six years before he escaped. He joined the church to become a priest. He then became a missionary in the north and west of Ireland. He converted the pagan Irish to Christianity.

Legend says that Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. It is said that he used the three-leaf clover, the shamrock, to explain the Christian Trinity, the father, the son and the holy spirit. There are many other legends about Patrick that have made him an important part of Irish culture. March 17 is believed to be the date of his death.

Saint Patrick's Day then is March 17th and is an annual celebration of the patron saint of Ireland. It is a national holiday in Ireland, and millions of Irish people all over the world celebrate it. There were many Irish immigrants in the USA so it is an important day in cities like Chicago and New York.

Everything related to Irish culture is celebrated, especially the color green, which is the color for Saint Patrick's Day and the national color of Ireland. On St. Patrick's Day, city authorities in Chicago even dye the city's river green for this day.

Traditions include wearing green clothes, eating Irish food like corned beef and cabbage, and drinking the Irish beer Guinness, which many bars also dye green. They also listen to traditional Irish folk music.

There are also traditional St Patrick's Day parades. The one in Dublin takes place over five days and attracts half a million people. The New York parade is the largest, with two million spectators. Many people with no Irish connections celebrate and declare themselves Irish for a day.