



# Saint Patrick

His given name was **Maewyn**, was born at Kilpatrick, Scotland, in the year 387; died Ireland March, 17 493. His dad was Calphurnius from a Roman family of high rank in Britain. His mom Conchessa a near relative of the great patron of Gaul, St. Martin of Tours.

When Patrick was 16 years old he was carried off into slavery by Irish marauders and was sold as a slave. He told in his "**Confessio**" that during his 6 years in captivity while tending the flocks he prayed many times in the day: "the love of God". He added, "and the faith grew in me, and the spirit was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as **a hundred prayers**, and in the night nearly the same."

While in slavery he studied under master Milchu (Druid high priest) named St. Germain for 12 years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the Pagans in Ireland to Christianity. Because of a dream of an angel he fled from his cruel master by ship to Britain, but now his heart was set on devoting himself to the service of God. He adopted the Christian name **Patrick**, was appointed second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at converting the Irish people to Christianity so the Druid Priests did not like him. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, setting up schools and churches. His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. When Patrick was dying, he urged his friends to **celebrate** his exit into **everlasting life**. He died on **March 17 AD 461**. (now **St. Patrick's Day**).

## *Irish folklore about St. Patrick's Day*

**THE SERPENTS** He miraculously drove snakes from Ireland by banging a drum, while giving a sermon.

**THE SHAMROCK** The pagan Irish had great difficulty understanding the doctrine of the **Trinity**, until he gave them a natural example by holding up a **three-leafed shamrock** to show the three leaves combined to make a single plant. This represents how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit could all be separate together. The people understood, so the shamrock became the symbol of the Irishmen wear it in their hats on the Saint's day.

**Irish heritage influence on the USA** Nine people who signed the "Declaration of Independence" were Irish, and nineteen Presidents of the U.S. were Irish including our first President, George Washington.

## Sources:

"St. Patrick's Day Web Page" © 1999 Jerry Wilson,

"The Definitive St. Patrick's Day Festivity Book. © 1997,

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## Bible Verses about the Trinity of interest:

Matthew 28:19

**Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit.**

1 Peter 3:18

Christ also suffered when he died for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners that he might bring us safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

1 John 5:6,7

And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism, and by shedding his blood on the cross - by water and blood. The Spirit also gives us the testimony this is true. 7 So we have these three witnesses.

The prayer of St. Patrick "**St. Patrick's Breast-Plate**" was supposed to prepare for victory:

I bind to myself today  
The strong virtue of the Invocation of the Trinity:  
I believe the Trinity in the Unity  
The Creator of the Universe.

I bind to myself today  
The Incarnation of Christ with His Baptism,  
The virtue of His crucifixion with His burial,  
The virtue of His Resurrection, His Ascension,  
The virtue of His coming on the Judgement Day.

I bind to myself today  
The virtue of the love of seraphim,  
In the obedience of angels,  
In the hope of resurrection unto reward,  
In prayers of Patriarchs,  
In predictions of Prophets,  
In preaching of Apostles,  
In faith of Confessors,  
In purity of holy Virgins,  
In deeds of righteous men.

I bind to myself today  
The power of Heaven,  
The light of the sun,  
The brightness of the moon,  
The splendour of fire,  
The flashing of lightning,  
The swiftness of wind,  
The depth of sea,  
The stability of earth,  
The compactness of rocks.

I bind to myself today  
God's Power to guide me,  
God's Might to uphold me,  
God's Wisdom to teach me,  
God's Eye to watch over me,  
God's Ear to hear me,  
God's Word to give me speech,  
God's Hand to guide me,  
God's Way to lie before me,  
God's Shield to shelter me,  
God's Host to secure me,

Against the snares of demons,  
Against the seductions of vices,  
Against the lusts of nature,  
Against everyone who meditates injury to me,

Whether far or near,  
Whether few or with many.

I invoke today all these virtues  
Against every hostile merciless power  
Which may assail my body and my soul,  
Against the incantations of false prophets,  
Against the black laws of heathenism,  
Against the false laws of heresy,  
Against the deceits of idolatry,  
Against the spells of women, and smiths, and druids,  
Against every knowledge that binds the soul of man.

Christ, protect me today  
Against every poison, against burning,  
Against drowning, against death-wound,  
That I may receive abundant reward.

Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ within me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ at my right, Christ at my left,  
Christ in the fort,  
Christ in the chariot seat,  
Christ in the poop,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks to me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I bind to myself today  
The strong virtue of an invocation of the Trinity,  
I believe the Trinity in the Unity  
The Creator of the Universe.

Scripture Verses for St. Patrick theme - Trinity:

1 Timothy 3:16

Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Luke 3:22

The Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with you."

Matthew 28:19

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9-11,26

9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all.) 10 Since Christ lives within you, even though your body will die because of sin, your spirit is alive because you have been made right with God. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you. 26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

Colossians 2:2

My goal is that they will be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have full confidence because they have complete understanding of God's secret plan, which is Christ himself.

Titus 3:4-6

4 But then God our Savior showed us his kindness and love. 5 He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit. 6 He generously poured out the Spirit upon us because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did.

1 Peter 3:18

Christ also suffered when he died for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners that he might bring us safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

1 John 5:6,7

6 And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by water only, but by water and blood. And the Spirit also gives us the testimony that this is true. 7 So we have these three witnesses—