

St Patrick

St Patrick was born in Wales. He was captured as a slave and brought to Ireland. He herded sheep and pigs on Sliabh Mish mountain in Co. Antrim. He prayed a lot during this time. Eventually he escaped back to Wales. He was ordained a bishop and returned to Ireland in 432 A.D.

He preached Christianity all over Ireland. Lots of places are associated with and named after him

- **Croagh Patrick**, Co Mayo (mountain where he prayed)
- **Loug Dergh**, Co Donegal (a place of pilgrimage)
- **Down Patrick**, Co Down (where St Patrick is buried)
- He lit a fire at Easter on **Hill of Tara**, Co Meath (Tara was the seat of Celtic High King of Ireland)

Banishing of Snakes

It is thought that “snakes” symbolise the banishing of pagan beliefs (Snakes never lived in Ireland! climate not suitable)

Shamrock

This plant was used by Patrick to explain the Christian message of the Trinity (3 persons in one God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit). 3 leaves on one stem = shamrock.

St Patrick’s era was an era of change in Ireland. Some of the Celtic beliefs (many pagan Gods) were changed to Christianity. Celtic way of life and culture continued in Ireland. (Ireland was never invaded by the Romans).

All of the above should be read in conjunction with the comic strip style story of St. Patrick. This is a modern presentation of the story of St. Patrick. This comic strip can be found in the cultural box.