IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Who is Saint Patrick?

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world’s most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God.

Patrick’s captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and he was reunited with his family.

After returning home Patrick had a vision which prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. There he converted thousands of people for 40 years and began building churches across the country. Patrick often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity.

After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering, Patrick died on March 17, 461. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick. Patrick’s grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone.

St. Patrick Quiz

St. Patrick used the shamrock to preach about trinity.
True False

St. Patrick was Irish.
True False

St. Patrick was a slave.
True False

The shamrock is the symbol of Ireland.
True False

The first St. Patrick’s Day parade was held in Boston, MA.
True False