

St Patrick's Day



Comprehension exercise

Read the text and then answer the questions

Saint Patrick's Day is often called Paddy's Day or St Paddy's Day. The Irish translation is La Fheile Padraig. It is an annual feast day and holiday in Ireland and is celebrated in many parts of the World. The usual day of the feast is 17th March which comes in the Christian period of Lent.

St Patrick's Day is dedicated to the Patron Saint of Ireland St Patrick (385 461 AD). He was thought to have brought Christianity to Ireland and to have driven out all of the snakes.

No one knows for sure where St Patrick died. Some say he died in Ireland and others say he died in Glastonbury, England. Popular belief is that he died on the 17th March and this is why this day is marked as St Patrick's Day.

St Patrick's Day commemorates St Patrick but is also a day to celebrate all things Irish - from the lucky four leaved shamrock, to the leprechauns, to the Irish dancers.

Traditionally, Irish people attend mass in their local church on the morning of the 17th March. They say prayers for the missionaries all over the World. In the afternoon and evening, they frequent the parade. Large parades are held in most Irish towns including Dublin, Galway and Limerick but there are smaller parades in the villages.

Ireland is associated with the colours green, gold and orange and these remain popular St Patrick's Day colours. Alcoholic drinks can play a big part in any Irish celebration and some of the most popular are Guinness, Murphy's, Harp and Baileys. Even the Irish coffee is laced with a tot of whiskey!



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Answer the following questions using sentences.

1. What other names are used for St Patrick's Day?

2. Where do Irish people often go on the morning of St Patrick's day?

3. Where do people believe St Patrick died?

4. What colours are associated with Ireland?

5. Name some popular Irish drinks that may be drunk during the parade.

6. Who is St Patrick's Day dedicated to?

7. What two things is St Patrick said to have done for Ireland?

8. Name some things associated with the culture of Ireland.

9. Where are the parades held?

10. What day is St Patrick believed to have died on?
