

Who was Saint Patrick?

Did you know that St. Patrick was not from Ireland? He was actually British! He was captured and taken to Ireland to work as a slave, basically a prisoner. While he was there, he worked as a shepherd, which gave him plenty of time to think and pray. He eventually managed to escape, and moved back home to England. However, once he got there, he felt that God was calling him back to Ireland, to serve the people there & tell them about Jesus.

So he again left his first home and went back to the land where he was in captivity, and he brought them God's message of forgiveness in Christ. He was responsible for bringing Christianity to Ireland, because he knew that God cared about those Celtic people just as much as He loved anyone.

When Jesus came to earth from heaven, people didn't realize who He was. They didn't understand that He was their Messiah, the promised Savior. They refused to believe it, because Jesus was not the kind of savior they were expecting. Jesus was upset that they rejected Him, but promised blessing for those who would accept Him. He wasn't really at home on earth, but knew that God's presence was everywhere. Patrick also discovered that God could be present everywhere, whether or not he was "at home."

Have you ever had to move to a new place? It can be hard. We might not know as many friends, or we might have to adjust to how things are in a new place. But we can be comforted to know that God is with us no matter where we go, just like Patrick was. And because we know that, we can be ready to share the hope of Christ with other people, just like Patrick did. How do we do that?

Well, we can tell them with our words, but even more importantly we can show the love of God through our attitudes & actions. Simple acts of kindness and smiles go a long way to communicating that we care. So, rather than celebrating Saint Patrick's Day by pinching people who aren't wearing green or hunting for 4-leaf clovers, practice sharing Jesus' love with others like St. Patrick himself did!

Legend says that St. Patrick used shamrocks, or clover, to teach people about the Trinity: one stem with three leaves to represent one God in three persons (the Father, the Son, & the Holy Spirit).



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