

Saint Kevin's School

Cork

Ireland

Irish Folk Customs and Legends

St. Patrick by Jamie O' Leary



St Patrick is the patron Saint of Ireland. He was taken from his Christian British home by pagan Irish raiders. He was sold into slavery and for six years herded sheep on Slemish Mountain in County Antrim. He managed to escape and returned to Britain. There he had visions telling him to become a priest and to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. When he became a bishop he was sent back to Ireland to carry out his missionary work. He lived in Ulster first and built a church in Armagh. He travelled across Ireland baptising people and building churches. He used the Shamrock as a symbol of the Holy Trinity and he drove all the snakes out of Ireland. His missionary work meant that Ireland was to become a strongly Christian country.

The Irish Shamrock by Shane Grimes



The shamrock is the name given to three leaf clovers, which grow in Ireland. The shamrock was chosen as a national emblem because of the legend Saint Patrick used the plant to show what the Christian Trinity means. Shamrocks are considered good luck symbols by Irish people. Irish people wear shamrocks to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

The Legend of the Leprechaun by Conor Nagle



A leprechaun looks like a small (ugly) old man about 2 feet tall. He is usually dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat and a leather apron. According to legend, leprechauns are aloof and unfriendly, live alone, and pass the time making shoes. Leprechauns possess a hidden pot of gold and treasure hunters track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. If caught, he can be forced to reveal the whereabouts of his treasure, but the captor must keep their eyes on him every second. If the captor's eyes leave the leprechaun (and he often tricks them into looking away), he vanishes and hope of finding the treasure is lost.

The Blarney Stone by Tony Delaney



The Blarney Stone is a stone set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. Kissing the stone is supposed to bring the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence (blarney). The origins of the Blarney Stone's magical properties aren't clear, but one legend says that an old woman cast a spell on the stone to reward a king who had saved her from drowning. Kissing the stone while under the spell gave the King the ability to speak sweetly and convincingly.

Celtic Myth and Legend 'The Ui Neill' by Shane Grimes



Legends say long ago Ireland was divided in half by two powerful kings. They agreed on a boundary and mug would have the south half and Conn would have the north. He was called Conn of the hundred battles and he made his capital at the great Rath of Tara. Niall of the Nine Hostages came from the Connacht tribes and got his name because he when he conquered small kingdoms he took many hostages. He was a great warrior and led raids against the mighty Romans in Britain. Niall's descendants came to be known as the Ui

Neill's and ruled over most of west Ulster and north Leinster. They held great feasts in Tara whenever a new king was proclaimed. Many years later the famous family name the O' Neils of Tyrone came from Niall's descendants.

A Gaelic Blessing

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

The rain fall soft upon your fields

And, until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Favourite Irish Sayings of the Junior Class

- If you're lucky enough to be Irish, then you're lucky enough!
- A turkey never voted for an early Christmas.
- The Irish gave the bagpipes to the Scotts as a joke, but the Scotts haven't seen the joke yet.
- The Irish are very fair people; they never speak well for one another.
- The Irish gave the bagpipes to the Scotts as a joke, but the Scotts haven't seen the joke yet.
- A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor's book.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point in the wrong direction!
- My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it.