St Patrick's Day

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqO0O8O8Gmk

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, and every year, on the 17th of March, Irish people all over the world have a huge celebration in his honour. He was born in Wales, which is just across the sea from Ireland. It was the year 373 and the Romans still ruled that part of the world. Many of the people in Wales and Ireland were druids who worshipped the sun and other aspects of nature. But Patrick was a Christian. When Patrick was 16 years old, he was walking along the beach when some pirates seized him. They took him to Ireland and sold him as a slave where he worked in the fields. One day, he heard God telling him to escape, and he ran down to the sea where he found a ship waiting to take him home.

When he was growing up, he heard a voice calling on him to return to Ireland and to tell people there about Christianity, which is what he did.

Patrick travelled the length and breadth of Ireland and had many adventures while he spread his message.

Quite often, the druid priests were very angry with him for telling their followers to change their religion. And his life was always in great danger.

Ireland is a very rainy country and the fields are emerald green. One of the most common plants that grow among the grass is the shamrock. It's like a small clover with three leaves. St Patrick used to pick up the shamrock and explained that the three leaves were the three aspects of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

St Patrick is also famous for driving all the snakes into the sea, so that, to this day, there are no snakes lurking in the beautiful green grass of Ireland.

The shamrock and the snakes are the most famous stories about St Patrick.

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