

St Patrick's Day



1. As pupils enter

Have the webpage open. Play your chosen music and display a focus image.

2. Introduction

Begin by asking the assembly if they know what a 'saint' is? You could play the short video called **What is a saint?** Gather responses.

Follow up by asking if anyone knows what a 'patron saint' is? (A patron saint is a saint who has a special connection to either a particular place or a particular community of people).

You could follow up by asking the names of the patron saints of the UK and Ireland and, if using the assembly in the days preceding St Patrick's Day, whether anyone can say which patron saint's day is approaching.

Establish that St Patrick's Day falls on 17 March and that today the assembly will be hearing about his life and thinking about what we can learn from it.

3. Play the video

The duration is 4' 09". Final words: '...and heritage he is part of.'

4. After the video - Time to talk

Use the Video questions to help pupils recall the events of St Patrick's life and consolidate their understanding:

- What are some of the ways that St Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world? (Parades, floats, music, turning buildings - and other things - green)
- How did Patrick arrive in Ireland? (Captured and taken there as a slave)
- What did Patrick dream of in Ireland? (Of a ship waiting to rescue him)
- Why did Patrick return to Ireland? (To convert the Irish to Christianity)
- How do we know about Patrick's life? (From his writing called *Confessio*)
- What are some of the stories about Patrick that may not be true? (That he brought the dead back to life; that he drove snakes out of Ireland; that he performed miracles)

Ask the assembly: **What can we all learn from the life of St Patrick?** Gather responses. Look for an awareness that Patrick had to show great courage.

5. Opportunity to sing

If your assembly is to include a song this would be a good time to sing.

Video page



6. Opportunity to reflect

Today we've heard about St Patrick - the patron saint of Ireland...

We've heard how Patrick was captured when he was just a boy and taken to Ireland, to work as a slave...

Think to yourself how Patrick must have felt - alone, separated from family and friends, uncertain of the future...

Later in his life Patrick decided to return to Ireland, even though he knew it would be dangerous...

There are times in all our lives when we have to show the courage that Patrick showed...

Think about a time when you've had to show courage and determination yourself...

7. Opportunity for prayer

Dear God

Thank you for the life of St Patrick and all those people who have shown great courage.

When we need to show courage ourselves help us to remember the people who can inspire us.

And help us to always do what is right - even when that means showing great courage.

Amen.