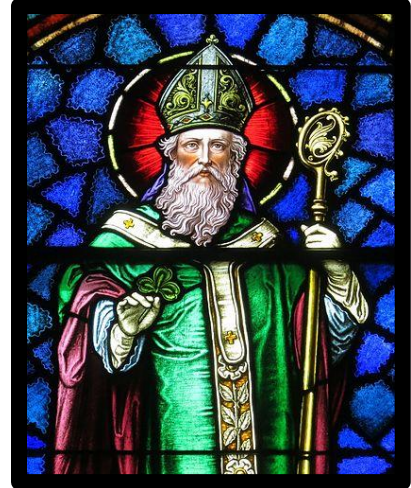


ST. PATRICK

St. Patrick was the missionary who first brought the Christian religion to the island of Ireland. Although it is hard to pinpoint the exact dates of his life, he probably lived during the 5th century A.D. Originally a Briton, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates when he was sixteen and lived as a slave among the Irish for about six years before he escaped. Later when he became a cleric of the church, he returned to Ireland as a missionary. According to a legend that later developed, St. Patrick used the power of prayer to cause all of the snakes upon the island to swim into the sea and drown themselves. To this day there are no native snakes in Ireland, but this is due to geography.



“The Prayer of St. Patrick”

As I arise today,
may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me,
the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me,
the shield of God defend me,
the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.
Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen.

QUESTIONS

1. Based on the details of his life, what can you tell about St. Patrick?
2. What can you tell about St. Patrick based on his prayer?