



Danny's Celtic Kids

"Ireland is where strange tales begin and happy endings are possible"

Newsletter

Issue 4

March 2004



Danny's Corner

Hi, Kids! In this issue we're talking about St. Patrick, because St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on the 17th of March.

Before St. Patrick went to Ireland, another priest named Palladius had been sent there to convert the pagans to Christianity. But, he failed and the people made him leave the country. Patrick was sent to replace him.

Most of the people in Ireland followed the old pagan religion. The pagan priests there were called *Druids*. (It is pronounced, *druo-ids*). They weren't just priests, they also worked as teachers, judges, and magicians. Every tribe had a Druid to help the chief lead them.

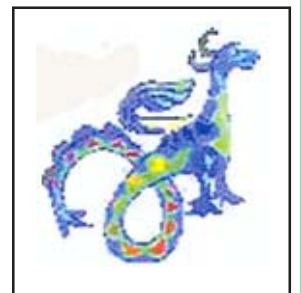
Now, the Druids had heard of the powerful magic of Patrick's religion, and some of them were afraid of him and of his beliefs. They believed in the old ways and were afraid that if the people started believing in Christianity, then there wouldn't be anything for them to do. They wouldn't be important anymore. They became Patrick's enemies, and they tried to cast spells on him to make him go away, but nothing worked. Other Druids liked Patrick's ideas and his religion, and they believed him. Some of them even became priests just like him.

Today, St. Patrick's name is found all over Ireland in the names of towns and villages like Kirkpatrick, Downpatrick, and Kilpatrick. Wells and streams are named for him, because they are the places where he baptized the people. The people even gave him a nickname. They called him *Old Shaved Head*, and there is a song about him--

Old Shaved Head cometh
Off the storm-tossed sea:
He wears a long robe,
A crooked staff hath he.....

I wish you a Blessed and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Danny



A Traditional Irish Blessing

May the sound of happy music
And the lilt of Irish laughter
Fill your heart with gladness
That stays forever after.



Saint Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland

The holiday that honors Saint Patrick is celebrated on March 17th. For most Irish, this day starts off with church services which are followed by parades and parties with Irish food, music and dances.

In this issue of the newsletter, we aren't going to talk about St. Patrick's Day activities, but about Saint Patrick, the man, and his story.

It might sound odd, but Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland was not Irish himself. It is believed that he was born somewhere in the British Isles probably around 385 A.D.

Patrick's father was an official who worked for the Roman government. The Roman Empire had conquered all of Britain about three hundred years before Patrick's birth, and the people lived under Roman rule.

When Patrick was sixteen years old, he was captured by raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. For six long years he tended his master's flocks of sheep. He spent many of his lonely hours praying.

One day Patrick heard a voice he thought was the voice of God telling him it was time to run away. Patrick traveled to the coast and boarded a ship that eventually landed in what is now France.

He decided to dedicate his life to God and spent many years in Europe studying to become a priest. Then Patrick heard another call. This time it was the voice of the Irish calling for him to return to Ireland and "walk among us". Patrick felt that God was telling him to go back to Ireland and convert the people to Christianity.



In January, Danny entertained children in the "Kid's Play Area" aboard the Carnival Cruise ship, CONQUEST



Finding Ireland on the map



Listening to a story



Reading Danny's book



Learning a song

For information on Danny O'Flaherty's Celtic Heritage Cruises
Visit: oflahertytours.com
or contact: Laurie@oflahertytours.com

Let's learn some Irish!

Colors

White-	bán	(pronounced- bawn)
Black-	dubh	(pronounced- dove)
Brown-	donn	(pronounced- done)
Blue-	gorm	(pronounced- gore' um)
Green-	uaine	(pronounced- wan' ya)
Red-	dearg	(pronounced- day' erg)



Continued from page 2

For thirty or forty years, Patrick worked among the Irish people. Two popular legends that are told about him are the story of the shamrock and the story of the snakes.

The story of the shamrock states that one day Patrick was trying to teach the people about the three natures of God, and how they are all different but, at the same time, all one God. The legend says he reached down and picked a shamrock and used it to demonstrate what he was trying to tell them. Showing the people that in the one leaf, there are three distinct parts, but they all make up the single leaf.

The other legend is the story of the snakes. It says that one day in order to show God's power, Saint Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. And to this day, there is not one snake on the entire island.

When Patrick died, the whole country went into mourning. Patrick is said to be buried near the River Quoile in Downpatrick, County Down in Northern Ireland.

Books about Saint Patrick

Shamrocks, Harps, and Shillelaghs, The Story of the St. Patrick's Day Symbols by Edna Barth, illustrated by Ursula Arndt.

Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland
by Tomie de Paola



Color Saint Patrick





Get your copy of Danny's book and music CD for kids.

You can purchase them at www.CelticNationsWorld.com in the Celtic Shop.



***The Monster Picnic* CD \$15.00 plus shipping and handling
Thirteen songs to delight children of all ages.**



***The Loch Ness Monster's Story* \$15.00 plus shipping and handling
A story of the Loch Ness Monster family and their adventures.**

Danny's Celtic Kids Newsletter is a not-for-profit publication.

The newsletter is available at no cost on the websites www.CelticNationsWorld.com and dannyoflaherty.com.

We invite everyone to print a copy for themselves or for a friend. We also invite teachers to give copies to their students.

Be sure to check www.dannyoflaherty.com to see about having Danny bring his wonderful program of music and fun to your school.