

'Tis Time to Wear the Green

Ahh, sure and don't ye know? 'Tis St. Patrick's Day! This is the annual feast day that celebrates St. Patrick (*circa* AD 385 – 461), the most commonly recognized of the patron saints of Ireland. And quite a man he was.

Green ribbons and shamrocks were worn in celebration of St. Patrick's Day as early as the 17th Century. There is a reason these symbols are shown.



Patrick is said to have used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – to the pre-Christian Irish, and the wearing and display of shamrocks and shamrock-inspired designs have become a ubiquitous feature of the day.

So, in Patrick's honor, and in keeping with the celebration of the day, here are some Irish blessings for you and your family:

- May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
- May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door.
- May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light, and may good luck pursue you each morning and night.
- May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you wherever you go.
- May you enjoy the four greatest blessings: honest work to occupy you, a hearty appetite to sustain you, a good woman (or man) to love you, and a wink from the God above.
- May you live a long life, full of gladness and health, with a pocket full of gold as the least of your wealth.
- May the dreams you hold dearest be those which come true, and the kindness you spread keep returning to you.
- May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back; may the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields until we meet again.
- And trusting in Him to Whom we all pray, may a song fill your heart every step of the way.



From one who has Sullivans, Callahans and Smiths, in addition to Hunters, in his family tree ... Happy St. Patrick's Day!

– Beecher Hunter