



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



Hello friends,

Today is one of my favourite days because it is 17th March and it is Saint Patrick's Day, of course. It is our national day. We celebrate Saint Patrick, our Patron Saint who brought Christianity to Ireland.



Saint Patrick was actually born in Wales. He became a monk in France and went to Ireland in 432. There are different myths about his power. According to the legend, he used a three-leaf clove or shamrock to explain the Christian idea of Trinity. Another legend says that he chased all the snakes out of Ireland. The truth is that these creatures never lived in the country.

So we are going to celebrate! Can you imagine ?

I'm going to the big parade in the streets of Dublin, where I live ,with all my family wearing green costumes , green hats and shamrocks in our buttonholes. Mum has even dyed her hair green!

At first the colour that was associated with St. Patrick was blue, but when the shamrock became our national symbol, blue changed into green. Green is also the colour of leprechauns, the fairies. The tradition says that wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns, which like to pinch anyone they can see.

Well, after the parade, we will all have a big party at home. We have prepared bunches of shamrocks from our garden. We have decorated our house green, a must on an island which is called the Emerald Island. And of course we're eating green food! All the food for the party is green, apples, lettuce, cucumber, olives, spinach, pistachio cake...the bread for the sandwiches is green too! And we drink green mint lemonade. Dad prefers green beer, poor Dad!

My cousins in New York and Chicago in the USA are celebrating it, too. Guess what! In Illinois they even colour the Chicago River green. They also like eating corned beef and cabbage.

So yes, it is going to be a great day for us all.

Love, Maura

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