St. Patrick's Day Traditions

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

With tremendous appreciation for Rotary International that has the potential to connect us to people around the world if we take advantage of the network!

I am eternally grateful to Ciara Irwin-Foley of the Killarney Rotary Club for gathering information and pictures from fellow Rotarians and her family and friends.



Ciara

Sláinte!

Greetings and Best Wishes for a
Happy and Blessed
St. Patrick's Day to the
Rotary Club of Killarney!

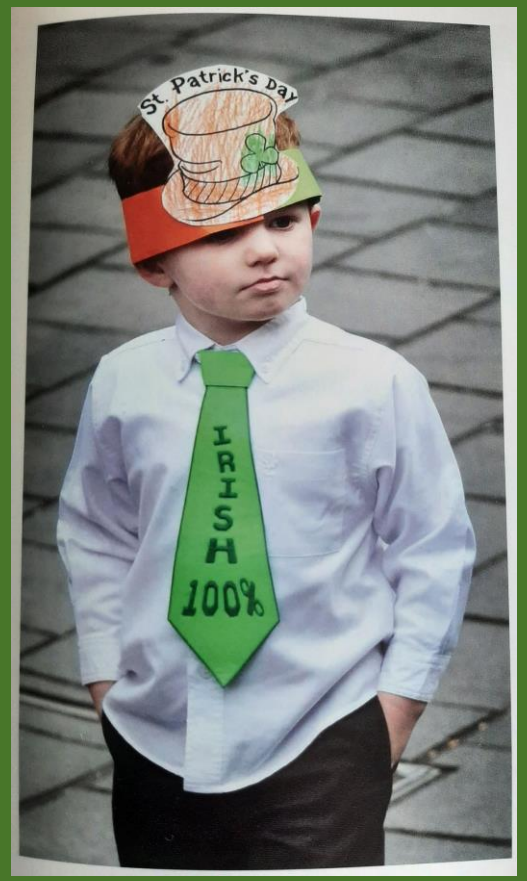
Killarney Rotary Club: https://www.facebook.com/Killarney-Rotary-Club-347360858629433

Did you ever look up the history of St. Patrick's Day?

Google it and judge for yourself what is fact or fiction but here's a pretty neutral synopsis: Saint Patrick's Day, feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.

Today is about celebrating being Irish and for most Irish people, it's the high holiday to celebrate our heritage and cultural pride.

St. Patrick's day is full of green!







Special thanks to Barry, Clodagh, Daphne, Emir, Marie, and Paul

Traditions in Ireland Past and Present

We would have been off sweets for Lent (that is candies) and allowed to eat them on St Patrick's Day watching the parade. I grew up in Cork City so we would have gone into the city early to get our standing position to watch the parade. Mum and dad wore shamrocks on their coat and we as children had a badge on ours. We did not wear green clothes, just our day to day with our good Sunday coat. St Patrick's Day is a Mass day, and we would go to Mass before the parade.

Nowadays there is a lot more merchandise in the shops for St Patrick's Day.
St Patrick's Day cards, I never remember them for sale in Ireland when growing up. It was the Americans that would send the card. However, in the last 20 years St Patrick's cards are a big thing here and we post them to our relatives abroad.

We always loved to see the American bands in our parade. We were fascinated how Irish the Americans would look.

Our parades over the years have gone more commercial. They are marketing business ideas. Before there were a lot more musicians and Irish dancers and homemade floats.

Traditions in Ireland Past and Present

The highlight of the day was to go to the Parade and have a party afterwards Ice cream and jelly etc.
The parades have become bigger and better and so have the parties.

There is definitely more focus on the day, people have become more conscious and prouder to be Irish.
It is nice that our National Holiday/Celebration is shared throughout the world – why not it is good to party.

As a child albeit a long time ago St Patrick's Day was always a special day. The day centered around getting up and dressed in Sunday best clothing having breakfast a fry and getting ready to head out to mass as St Patrick's Day was a holy day of obligation. Everyone would have the fresh sprigs of shamrock pinned to their collars or jackets by my father and off out the door to mass. Unlike today the church would be packed to the doors and over spilling to the outside. We were always anxious to make a quick exit as living in Dublin we wanted to get a good spot for the parade .

The Parade in Dublin has always been a massive spectacle and was a must do feature of the day.

Traditions in Ireland Past and Present

The Parades have clearly become a much bigger spectacle and the Day has now become a week long festival attracting participants and visitors from all over the world. It used to be just for us and now it is a worldwide event with huge budgets and seen as a fantastic opportunity to market all things Irish to the world. Despite all the commercialism it is still a celebration of our patron saints day and a celebration of our identity as an Irish nation and people.

The Irish love to celebrate their identity and their nationality.

The relationship with America is very special and our day is celebrated vigorously throughout the United States. We have so many people come from America to be here with us every year for our special day. The Irish American relationship is incredibly special and will always be very strong and I can't imagine a time when that will ever change.

Things have changed in a good way. I think we as a nation have become more aware of our culture and I think we make way more effort with celebrating St Patrick's Day now.

Traditions in Ireland Past and Present

As a child and still to this day (apart from Covid times) our family always took part in the St Patrick's Day parade. Our mother teaches Irish Dancing and now we do also and so we, as children, would dress up in our Irish dancing costumes and walk and dance through the streets of Killarney. Now, we look after all the young dancers who love taking part in the parades both in Killarney and Killorglin. After the parade we would all head to a bar and enjoy the great atmosphere. ('O'Shea's' in Killorglin).

To see celebrations of St Patrick's Day across the world is overwhelmingly wonderful. To see our Taoiseach (The Taoiseach **(Tea Sha)** is the prime minister and head of government of Ireland) visit the President of the United States annually is truly remarkable & historical for such a small country like Ireland. To see many American people travel to Ireland to take part in, or to view the parade in Dublin and many other towns, is a great compliment to our culture. St Patrick's Day is one of my favourite days of the year. It gives me great pride and I love passing the traditions of St Patrick's Day onto my children. Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig.

Traditions in Ireland Past and Present

It was an essential part of the day to watch the early evening news and see and listen to all the reports of the St Patrick's Day celebrations around the country and watch to see in case the cameras caught you and you ended up on the news.

We always looked forward to the 6 O' Clock news that would show a viewing of parades around the country and most of all the parade from 5th Avenue.



Food and Drink . . .

Green and orange gelatine desert with white vanilla ice cream, the three colours of our Irish flag, was the desert on the day.

Bacon and Cabbage with mashed potato was the main course usually on St. Patrick's Day.

Following the parade, it would be ice creams and sweets and home for a Sunday style dinner with all the family usually roast beef, potatoes and vegetables .

A yearly tradition of baking Irish Soda Bread and Irish Brown Bread to be delivered to family and friends.



My Irish Pride

Certainly, Ireland holds a special place in my heart. This picture was taken in 2013 when I visited the Killarney Rotary Club and presented a Royco Product to then club President Paul Sherry and received the Killarney Rotary Club Flag.



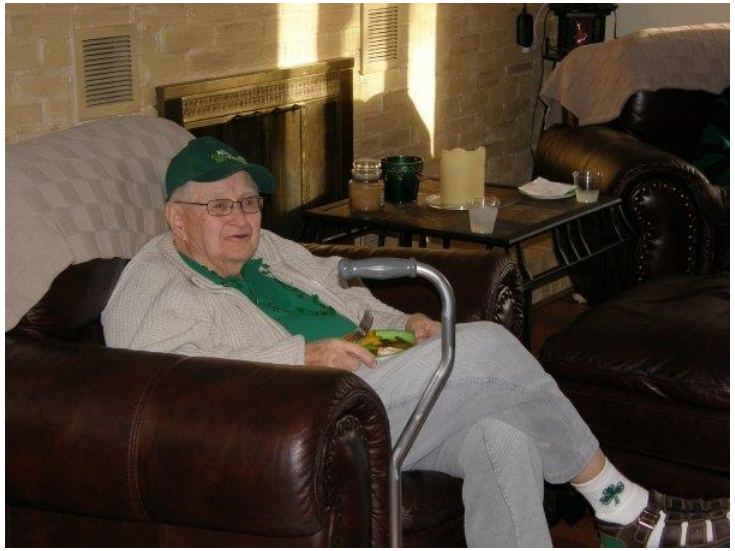
My Family Traditions For St. Patrick's Day

Like many Irish Americans, St. Patrick's Day is an anticipated holiday and preparations begin right after the Christmas holiday when we start planning the gathering of the clans. Sometimes we celebrate at home and sometimes we take it the pubs!

The house get's decorated inside and out, cards are purchased, and menus are planned. Music is contemplated – live or recorded and other gathering dates are coordinated with friends and family.



Annie and Jake 2009



The Grand Leprechaun of Ellsworth



My Irish Sisters from New Jersey

The 7:30 p.m. (EST) Toast

Wherever we are, friends and family
join a zoom or facetime to toast our
heritage and our Irish pride.
It’s Tradition!

Sláinte!

The 2021 Killarney St. Patrick's Day Celebration:

In the absence of the colourful parade and street celebrations that have traditionally made Killarney a must-visit town on March 17, the St Patrick's Festival Committee has opted for a virtual celebration to allow people everywhere to celebrate the town, its history and its people.

A stunning video showcasing Killarney's fascinating history, lore and legend has been produced as part of this year's unique virtual St Patrick's Festival in the town. Kerry County Council is delighted to work with St Patrick's Festival Committee to develop this unique celebration of our people and place https://youtu.be/tVWbGAXFxvQ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNGNciN9d1w

The specially commissioned video, titled Killarney: A place between heaven and earth, captures Killarney in all its glory with dramatic footage of standout mythical and magical features and contributions from high quality local performers.

https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/who-invented-st-patricks-day?fbclid=IwAR3aivqW13r5fFQEaGYBiWZbfXTiWYueXAr5plkfRXSg9h2tR--Mx6ULdG4

How to celebrate!

Here are a few ways your can celebrate St. Patrick's Day:

- Discover Irish **artists**
- Read Irish **authors**
- Listen to Irish **musicians**
- Learn Irish American **history**
- **Support a local Restaurant/Drinking establishment responsibly!**



Michael Fassbender steps it out with Clodagh Irwin-Owens the year he was grand marshal at the Killarney St Patrick's Day parade. Michael Fassbender is a German-born, Irish-raised actor and producer. His notable film roles include Lt. Archie Hicox in Inglourious Basterds, Magneto in the superhero films X-Men: First Class and X-Men: Days of Future Past, David in the science fiction movie Prometheus, and slave owner Edwin Epps in 12 Years a Slave, a historical drama that earned him a 2014 Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.



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