

Let's Go Irish!

Adapted from a program by Clara Strang
The Salvation Army *Quarterly Sketch*, Jan.– June, 1970

Pre-preparations: Ask ladies to come wearing green or anything Irish
Ask vocalist to sing a few Irish songs

Preparations: Decorate using Irish decorations
Tables decorated in green and white Irish serviettes



Greeting: *Cead mile Failte* (pronounced kad meel-a fall-sha)
(which means “*One hundred thousand welcomes*” or simply
“*Welcome to our Home*”)

Reading: **An Irish Welcome** Author Unknown
<http://islandireland.com>

Here's Céad Mile Fáilte to friend and to rover
That's a greeting that's Irish as Irish can be
It means you are welcome
A thousand times over
Wherever you come from, Whosoever you be.

Irish Proverbs: <http://islandireland.com/Pages/folk/sets/proverb.html>

About Work and Idleness:

Lose an hour in the morning and you'll be looking for it all day

About Romance and Marriage:

Beauty won't make the kettle boil.

About Character and Honour:

Who gossips with you will gossip of you

About Opportunity:

You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your mind

About Fortune & Wealth:

If you buy what you don't need you might have to sell what you do

About Life's Ups & Downs

There's nothing so bad that it couldn't be worse

Irish Folk Songs:

Galway Bay
I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen
It's a Long Way to Tipperary
Molly Malone (Cockles and Mussels)
O Danny Boy
Too a loo ra loo ral
When Irish Eyes are Smiling



Reading:

Legend of Saint Patrick

Author Unknown

<http://islandireland.com/Pages/folk/sets/sayings.html>

Good St. Patrick traveled far, to teach God's Holy Word
And when he came to Erin's sod, a wondrous thing occurred
He plucked a shamrock from the earth and held it in his hand
To symbolize the Trinity that all might understand
The first leaf for the Father
And the second for the Son
The third leaf for the Holy Spirit
All three of them in one.

Christian Songs Using Irish Tunes:

What a Friend We Have In Jesus (SA Songbook 645)
We're Bound for the Land (SA Songbook 905)
Be Thou My Vision
You Raise Me Up

Tune: When Irish Eyes Are Smiling

He found me with a burden and lifted it from me;
He found me in my sorrows and gave me liberty;
He found me in the darkness and caused the sun to shine;
No wonder that I love Him and call Him, 'Friend of mine.'

Tune: Galway Bay

I am coming while the hand of God is on me;
I am coming while the Spirit moves my soul;
I am coming while the precious blood is flowing;
I'll surrender, and let Jesus take control





(Have a large shamrock with the word “God” in big letters in the center and the words “Father,” “Son” and “Holy Spirit” printed on the three leaf parts of the shamrock.)

At this time of year and especially on March 17th, you will notice a number of people wearing something green, possibly a shamrock to celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day, in honor of the patron saint of Ireland.

Legend has sometimes obscured the facts concerning this early missionary to the Irish people. We do know that as a young lad, Patrick was captured from his home on the western coast of Britain by raiding Irishmen and carried back to their homeland as a slave. After six years he managed to escape, making his way to France where he eventually found refuge in a monastery.

Feeling a strong conviction to return with the Christian message to the people who had enslaved him, Patrick was sent as Bishop of Ireland. Through the years churches were established throughout the land.

It is believed that St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach the doctrine of the trinity to the people. Consequently this plant has become the national symbol of Ireland and is displayed predominantly at this time of year.

I would like to use the shamrock today, in much the same way as St. Patrick did, to leave with you three wonderful thoughts:

1. **God the Father**—loves us, each one of us.

Jesus tells us this in John 3: 16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

I saw a cartoon once in which “Charlie Brown” was picking petals off a flower to find out if God loved him (much as we did when we were young to discover if a certain boy loved us, remember?) You don’t have to do that to find out if God loves you—you don’t have to worry about it. God does love you! He showed how much He loved you and me when He sent His only Son down from Heaven to die that we might have forgiveness of sins and eternal life through His Son’s death.

2. **God the Son**—showed us God’s love.

1 John 4: 9—”This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His only Son into the world that we might have life through Him.”

A scientist wanted to study a large ant hill in his garden but every time he got near the ant hill his shadow fell across it and the ants scurried in terror for cover. He had no intentions of hurting the ants, but how could he make them aware of his good intentions? To them, he was an all-powerful creature somewhere up there, whose thoughts they could not guess, whose ways they could not know. Even if the scientist was able in some way to communicate with the tiny insects, they would never believe that he understood their problems—the minute organization of the hill, their struggles for food, their battles with other ants. There was only one way for the scientist to win their complete confidence—he would have to somehow for a time become an ant.

The gap between our understanding the nature of and the intentions of God is far wider than the gap between man and the ant. That is why Jesus Christ came. He knew that as long as we thought of God as “Some all-powerful creature somewhere up there” we could never understand what God was really like or how much He loved us.

3. **God the Holy Spirit**—confirms God’s love.

When Jesus Christ could no longer be with us here on earth, He promised us that “The Father would give us another Counselor to be with us forever...” (John 14: 16).

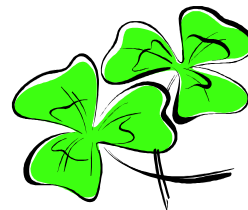
Jesus didn’t leave us to fend for ourselves—He gave us the indwelling Holy Spirit to guide us and to assure us of the Father’s love each day.

In the deserts of Arabia there is a guide who never loses his way. He carries a homing pigeon with a long, fine cord attached to its leg. When he is in doubt as to which way to go, he throws the bird into the air. The pigeon strains at the cord to fly in the direction of home and thus the bird leads his master. This guide is known as the “dove-man.”

Just in the same way, we have a Heavenly Dove, the Holy Spirit, who is willing and able to lead us if we will only allow Him to do so.

When you look at a shamrock, let it remind you of these three precious and most wonderful thoughts -

God the Father loves you!
God the Son proved it!
God the Holy Spirit confirms it!



Reading:

An Irish Prayer

Author Unknown
<http://islandireland.com>

May God give you...
For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing for each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.



Quiz:

Island situated in Northwest Europe _____

Ireland is also known by what phrase _____

Capital City of Ireland _____

Three colors of the Irish flag _____, _____, _____

Official emblem of Ireland _____

The National Flower of Ireland _____

National Day of Ireland celebrated on March 17th

Patron Saint of Ireland _____

Mischievous wee folk _____

The treasure at the end of the rainbow _____

Ireland's lucky charm made of limestone _____

The most common surname in Ireland _____

Ireland, the Emerald Isle, Dublin, Green white orange, harp, shamrock, St. Patrick's Day,
St. Patrick, Leprechaun, Pot of Gold, Blarney Stone, Murphy

Shamrock Stomp:

Played like musical chairs, except shamrocks are placed on the floor, Irish music is played, and when it stops each person must put their foot on a shamrock; the person without a shamrock is eliminated from the game; this continues until one person remains.

Reading:**Old Irish Blessing**

Author Unknown
<http://islandireland.com>

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And rains fall softly in your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand

Happy 
St. Patrick's Day