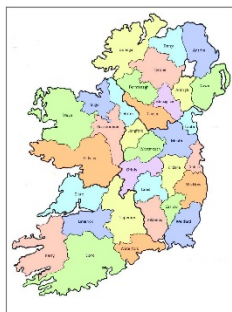# St. Patrick

Saint Patrick was born in northern Roman Britain around 387. The son of a wealthy tax collector, Patrick's life was privileged in a comfortable Roman household.
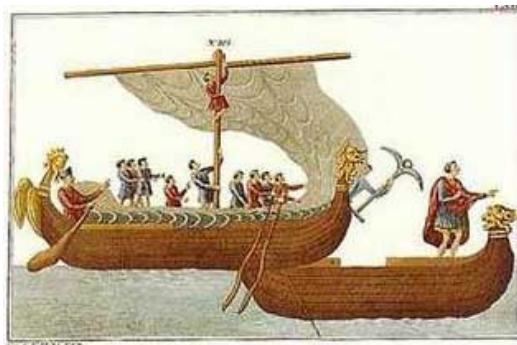
When he was sixteen, Patrick was captured and brought to Ireland as a slave.

Legend has it that he looked after sheep and pigs on Slemish Mountain in County Antrim for six years.

During these harsh days of slavery, Patrick prayed often and found a deep Christian faith.

After six years, he escaped and sailed on a boat back to his family in Britain.

Freedom reinforced his Christian faith and called by God, Patrick went to France where he studied for the priesthood.

He was ordained a priest and within a few years, a bishop.

Patrick chose to return to Ireland. His first convert gave Patrick a barn where the first church was built at **Saul**, County Down.

Patrick travelled throughout Ireland, converting people to Christianity. He used the shamrock leaf to tell people about the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Three persons in one God, the Holy Trinity.