



Maewyn Succat's Good News The "LUCK" of Christ



Maewyn Succat had Good News... and it has nothing to do with good luck. On March 17th, each year many people celebrate St. Patrick's Day by wearing green clothes, drinking green beer, participating in parades, dyeing rivers green, and thanking the luck of the Irish. Who is Saint Patrick and why is there a holiday to honor him?



A Profile of Ireland's St. Patrick: (from <http://www.ireland.com/events/st.patricks/2001/saint/profile.htm>)

Name: Maewyn Succat (He adopted Patrick or Patricius upon becoming a priest)

Nationality: Roman Briton Born: Around 415 AD Died: March 17th, 493
(Disputed)

Travels: At the age of 16 he was brought to Ireland. He later returned to his home in Wales, traveled to France and eventually came back to Ireland

Education: Very little in his early life. He later trained as a cleric in France

Occupation: Sheep herder for Milchu on Slemish Mountain in Co Antrim and later preacher, baptiser and bishop

Achievements: Posthumously became Ireland's patron saint Responsible for the conversion of the island to Christianity

Publications: Epistle to Coroticus Confessio

Interests/hobbies: Preaching, Writing, Travel, Church-building, Hill walking - once spent forty days of Lent on Croagh Patrick



Legacies: Pota Phadraig: Pota Phadraig (Patrick's Pot) is the name given to the measure of whiskey to be taken on Saint Patrick's Day. Tradition dictates that a shamrock be floated on the whiskey before drinking, hence the expression, 'drowning the shamrock'



The Shamrock: This was the tool reputedly used by Saint Patrick to illustrate the Holy Trinity to convert the Irish pagans
Saint Patrick's Breastplate: Also known as The Lorica, this was the hymn said to have been sung by Patrick and his followers on their pilgrimage to Tara as they attempted to put a stop to the pagan rituals.

Saint Patrick's Day Parades: Contrary to popular belief, this tradition did not originate in Ireland. The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in America was in 1737 hosted by the Charitable Irish Society of Boston. Today festive parades are held all over the world, for no more sinister purpose than raising a glass to the saint and celebrating Irishness. (see a Wee Bit O' Fun below)

The Reek: Every year thousands of pilgrims, many in bare feet, climb the 2,500 ft to the peak of Croagh Patrick, to pay homage to Saint Patrick's Christian mission in Ireland. Legend says that it was here that the saint rang his bell and the snakes of Ireland fled. He was tremendously conscious about his lack of education and often refers to his inability to express his thoughts clearly in his Confessio.(from Simms, The Real Story of Saint Patrick)



Maewyn Succat's Good News The "LUCK" of Christ



Myths about Saint Patrick:

He used a shamrock to explain the Trinity: Not true but the shamrock was traditionally worn in Ireland as a symbol of the cross

He drove the snakes out of the country: Ireland never had snakes - but the snake metaphor was probably used later to represent paganism

He was the first to preach **the Good News** in Ireland: It is known that there were Christians in Ireland before his time

He is thought to have born and died on his feastday, March 17th: Both claims are considered unlikely

A Wee Bit O' Fun (from <http://www.nando.net/toys/stpaddy/stpaddy.html>)

In America, Saint Patrick's Day is a basically a time to wear green and party. The first American celebration of Saint Patrick's Day was in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1737. As the saying goes, on this day "everybody is Irish!" Over 100 U.S. cities now hold Saint Patrick's Day parades, the largest held in New York City.

Green is associated with Saint Patrick's Day because it is the color of spring, Ireland, and the shamrock. Leprechauns are also associated with this holiday, although I'm not sure why. Leprechauns of legend are actually mean little creatures, with the exception of the Lucky Charms guy. They were probably added later on because capitalists needed something cute to put on greeting cards.

What's good luck on Saint Patrick's Day?:

- Finding a four-leaf clover (that's double the good luck it usually is).
- Wearing green.
(School children have started a little tradition of their own -- they pinch classmates who don't wear green on this holiday).
- Kissing the blarney stone.

Merriam-Webster's Definition of Luck

Main Entry: ¹**luck**

Pronunciation: 'l&k

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English *lucke*, from Middle Dutch *luc*; akin to Middle High German *gelücke* luck

Date: 15th century

1 a : a force that brings good fortune or adversity **b** : the events or circumstances that operate for or against an individual

2 : favoring chance; *also* : **SUCCESS**

- **luck**• **less** /-l&s/ *adjective*

Main Entry: ²**luck**

Function: *intransitive verb*

Date: circa 1584

1 : to prosper or succeed especially through chance or good fortune -- usually used with *out*

2 : to come upon something desirable by chance -- usually used with *out, on, onto, or into*

Well... from St. Patrick to kissing a blarney stone... the most important message that any person, place, or country can celebrate is the "LUCK" of Christ Jesus! Christ is the good news that St. Patrick or anyone should proclaim not only on March 17th but every day of the year!



Maewyn Succat's Good News The "LUCK" of Christ



Now, the word "luck" does not occur anywhere in scripture. This is evidence that nowhere in the Bible does it give place to "luck". In this case, the LUCK of Christ is an acronym that stands for some truths from scripture... as opposed to the false hope in a force that brings good fortune or adversity.

L – Love of God.

Rom 5:6-8 KJV

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 8:35-39 KJV

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eph 2:4-8 KJV

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

U – Under Grace

Rom 6:12-15 KJV

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

C – Christ Jesus

1 Tim 2:5-6 KJV

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Eph 3:19 KJV

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Col 1:1-6 KJV

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, 5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; 6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:



Maewyn Succat's Good News The "LUCK" of Christ



K – Keep What's Been Given to You

Gen 2:15 KJV

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Prov 3:19-23 KJV

19 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. 20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. 21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: 22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. 23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

Eph 4:3 KJV

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Eph 4:13 KJV

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Phil 4:4-7 KJV

4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Let St. Patrick's Day be an opportunity to be a witness to the "LUCK" of Christ and tell other's of the hope that is in Christ Jesus. You don't have to be named "Patrick" to be a Saint for Christ!

Eph 1:17-23 KJV

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Eph 2:18-19

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Eph 3:14-21 KJV

14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.