



Legends of St. Patrick

Legend	Description
Banishing the Black Pig of Monaghan	A big dark pig, which was actually a demon on the earth, was destroying the crops of the townfolks. St. Patrick found the pig, raised his staff while saying the Lord's prayer and the demon pig was banished.
His walking stick becomes a living tree	St. Patrick carried a walking stick made of ash and whenever he was evangelizing he would thrust his staff into the ground. One time, while still in England, it took so long for him to get through to the people that when he was finally ready to go, his ash walking stick had grown roots. The place was called Aspatria, meaning Ash of Patrick.
Miracle of the Pigs	When escaping from slavery, the ship St. Patrick was on landed but there was no food to be found. Mockingly, the captain challenged Patrick to ask his god to give them food. A herd of pigs came out of the woods and they had food.
Holy Fire	Each springtime, at a festival known as Beltane, a ceremonial King's fire would be lit from which all others fires across the land would be lit. St. Patrick lit a fire on a different hill. The king commanded St. Patrick's fire to be put out, and although they tried, the druids were unable to extinguish St. Patrick's Holy fire.
Forty nights on Croagh Patrick	St. Patrick climbed Croagh Patrick and fasted for 40 days and nights. There he was harassed by demons disguised as blackbirds.
Turns himself and his travelling companion into deer	From the poem <i>The Deer's Cry</i> or <i>St. Patrick's Breastplate</i> , in order to avoid detection and reach the Hill of Tara, St. Patrick and his companion turned into deer.
Shamrock & the Christian Trinity	Uses the shamrock with its three parts to each leaf to explain the trinity: three parts (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) but one God.
Creates what we now know as the Celtic Cross	Celtic Crosses are a combination of Celtic symbolism of a circle and the Christian cross.
Banishes all the snakes from Ireland	There are no snakes in Ireland because St. Patrick banished them all as they were actually demons and devils that had taken the form of snakes.