

Answers

1. Why is St. Patrick's Day celebrated on 17th March?

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on 17th March because this is the day on which Saint Patrick died.

2. How would Saint Patrick have felt when he was kidnapped and sold as a slave?

Answers alluding to his fear, not being able to speak Irish Gaelic, not knowing what was going to happen to him, etc.

3. Why is the shamrock important?

The shamrock is the symbol of Ireland and it is important because Saint Patrick used it in his Christian teaching to explain the Holy Trinity. He used the three leaves to explain the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

4. Why do you think St. Patrick's Day is now celebrated around the world, not just in Ireland?

Various answers, but answers which explain that there are large Irish communities in lots of different countries, e.g. London, Manchester and parts of USA. Also accept answers explaining that because it is a big celebration and some of the parades are on television, it is seen by more and more people worldwide, so more people join in the celebration.

5. What does he 'followed his calling' mean?

This means that Saint Patrick was called by God to become a deacon and he followed this path to Christianity.

6. What do you think influenced Saint Patrick's decision to become a deacon and a priest?

Saint Patrick was born into a Christian family and his father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest, so these were influences on him in his early life. Also, when he was kidnapped, his faith became very important to him, as prayer helped him through this difficult time.

7. Would Saint Patrick have been happy to go back to Ireland to teach the people about Christianity?

Various answers, but answers which suggest he may have been afraid as he was a slave there, it might bring back bad memories. Answers may also suggest that he was glad to be able to educate the people in the ways of Christianity.

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8. The following vocabulary is specific to the church. Can you explain what the words mean?
- a) **A minister who assists a priest.**
 - b) **An ordained member of the church, who can say mass and give sacraments.**
 - c) **A senior member of the church.**
 - d) **Someone who goes to other countries to teach people about Christianity and God's message.**
9. Name three countries which celebrate St. Patrick's Day and explain how they celebrate.
Any three from the text with an explanation for each one.
10. Why do many Irish people attend church on St. Patrick's Day?
Many Irish people attend church because St. Patrick's Day is a religious holiday, similar to Christmas and Easter.