



# IDAHO KNIGHTLY NEWS

Barry E. Newell, KTCH, KCT, Editor  
306 Maple St., Emmett, ID 83617  
ksigmason@gmail.com

## Editor's Note

If anyone would like to submit an article for the Idaho Knightly News, please email me your article as a Microsoft Word document. Keep it between 1 page and 1.5 pages.

## Upcoming Events:

Alaska Grand York Rite.....Mar 6-7  
Oregon Grand York Rite.....Apr 9-11  
Idaho Grand York Rite.....Apr 16-18  
Washington Grand York Rite .....May 7-9  
Montana Grand York Rite .....Jun 4-6  
Colorado Grand York Rite..... Sep 10-12  
Wyoming Grand York Rite..... Sep 17-19

## Feast Day of St. Patrick

By Barry E. Newell

During this month, many Christians observe the Feast of St. Patrick. Though widely known today for celebration and

festivity, this day properly commemorates a missionary bishop whose life exemplified courage, endurance, and unwavering devotion to Christ. In the spirit of Christian knighthood, St. Patrick stands as a model of spiritual conquest: not by the sword, but by faith, discipline, and the triumph of the Gospel in the Emerald Isles.

Saint Patrick was a Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland, known as the “Apostle of Ireland” and one of its Patron Saints. He was born around 387 AD, likely in Britain, and is traditionally believed to have died on March 17th, around 460 AD...hence the date of his Feast Day.

Much of his early life comes from two authenticated letters: the Confessio and the Epistola. Born to a Christian family (his father a deacon and his grandfather a priest) Patrick was captured at age sixteen by pagan raiders and enslaved in Ireland. For six years he labored as a herdsman, during which time his faith deepened profoundly. He eventually escaped, returned home, and later entered the clergy, ultimately returning to Ireland around 432 AD as a bishop and missionary.

By the 7th century, Patrick was venerated as Ireland's Patron Saint. Some

traditions suggest confusion with another figure, Palladius, sent to minister to Irish Christians and oppose Pelagianism. While debated, modern scholarship generally affirms a single historical Patrick whose legacy endured.

In the *Confessio*, Patrick recounts a vision that compelled his return to Ireland:

“I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland... and he gave me one of many letters... ‘The Voice of the Irish’... and I heard them cry: ‘We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.’ ”

His mission was not without danger. Christian clergy in Ireland were often beaten, robbed, or killed. Yet Patrick persevered, converting many, including members of the elite, and even turning would-be enemies through his steadfast faith. One such location of his ministry became associated with Saul, where a church and monastery were later established.

His second letter, the *Epistola* (Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus), condemns a British ruler for enslaving Christian converts, even declaring him excommunicated. This letter reveals Patrick’s moral authority and his defense of the faithful against injustice.

Though historical details remain debated, it is widely accepted that Patrick died on March 17th, 460 AD, likely at Saul, and is traditionally believed to be buried at Down Cathedral in Downpatrick.

Patrick’s legacy is also expressed symbolically. He is credited with teaching the Holy Trinity using the shamrock (three leaves, one plant), which became an enduring emblem of both his mission and Irish identity. While later legends claim he

banished snakes from Ireland, this is generally understood allegorically, representing the triumph of Christianity over pagan traditions.

The Feast of St. Patrick was formally recognized by the Catholic Church in the early 17th century, though observed much earlier. Historically, crosses (often in the form of the *cross pattée*) were worn on this day. While blue was once associated with Patrick, green later became dominant, reflecting both the shamrock and Ireland itself.

Today, St. Patrick remains a powerful symbol of faith, perseverance, and spiritual victory. Beyond parades and celebration, his life calls us, especially as Christian knights, to embody courage, charity, and devotion in service to God.

