

Act of Worship
ST PATRICK'S DAY [17th March] Key Stage 2
'Go preach all nations'

**Focal
point**

Focal point:

Daffodils

Globe or map of the world

Bible [*open at St Matthew 28*]

Picture of St Patrick/St Patrick's Day card

Candle Green drape

[Play some Irish music in a very low tone, e.g. Chieftains]



Leader

Today we rejoice with the people of Ireland for keeping the light of Christianity burning for the past 1,500 years and more. In celebrating the feast of St Patrick, we think of the great gift he brought to the people of Ireland and since then to people all over the world ... the gift of knowing God. In looking at our globe, we remember that for years many Irish people have gone to live in other countries and so today we want to bring them all to mind. Perhaps many of our relatives and friends. *[Pause]*

Child

Patrick was born in Britain. Before he was 16 he was taken as a slave to Ireland and earned his keep by tending sheep on a mountain. When he was on this mountain, he was lonely and afraid. Sometimes he would go deep down inside himself and pray to God. He found friendship with God on this mountain. He found God. He found his mission. He found happiness.

Leader

Patrick lived on the inside himself. He had a big heart for God. In the depths of his faith and his loneliness on this mountain, he had a great desire to spread the Gospel of Jesus. He is the patron saint of Ireland and brought Christianity to Ireland. He found within himself a holy well and there he found God and deep peace.

All of us, by our baptism have this holy well, but sometimes we find it hard to stop and pause and think about this.

In that holy well inside us we find a God who loves us and walks with us and climbs our mountains and descends down to our wells so that everything in our lives is a holy well or a holy mountain.

Patrick did not keep this holiness to himself, he preached to the people in Ireland.

**The Word
of God**

St Matthew 28:18-20

Child

Jesus said. 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. You must go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And know I am with you always, even to the end of the world.'

[Pause for reflection]

**Response
to the
Word**

Leader

Patrick was a disciple of Jesus and obeyed his command by preaching the Gospel to the people in Ireland. He listened to God in the depths of his heart. We too, by baptism are called to be disciples of Jesus and preach the Good News where we are. How can we do it? *[Pause to think]*

Child 1 I can preach the Good News here in school every day, by helping my friends.

Child 2 I can preach the Good News by speaking nicely to my Mum and Dad and obeying them.

Child 3 I can preach the Good News by being kind to my brothers and sisters.

Child 4 I can preach the Good News by listening carefully to my teachers and helpers.

Leader

Patrick was driven by a desire to share his love of God with others. Daily prayer became as important to Patrick as did his daily bread. Sometimes we forget our love of God and our daily prayer. Let us tell God we are sorry.

Lord, you make us strong in love.

You make us joyful people.

You make us untiring in love.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Going
forth**

Leader

As we think of the Irish people all over the world, we pray this prayer for them.

May the strength of God lead them. May the power of God keep them safe.

May the wisdom of God teach them. May the hand of God protect them.

May the way of God direct them. May the shield of God defend them.

May God guard them against anything which is harmful in our world. Amen.