

Act of Worship
ST PATRICK'S DAY [17th March] Key Stage 1

'I know my flock and they know me'

**Gathering
together**

Focal point:

Mound in the middle like a mountain
Shepherd's crook [*or a child dressed as shepherd*]
Real or picture of shamrock/St Patrick
Sheep [*soft toys*]
Candle
Bible [*open at St John 10*]



Leader

Today, children, is a day of celebration in many countries in our world and especially in Ireland. We join with all these people in making the Sign of the Cross. **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

As we look at this small display in front of us, I would like to think and imagine a shepherd looking after his sheep on the mountainside. [*Pause*]

St Patrick was a shepherd [*child lifts up lamb and crook*] at an early part of his life. We think that he was born into a family in Britain and when he was a young boy of 16 he was taken from his comfortable home on a boat to Ireland. He was hired by a farmer who sent him to mind sheep on Mount Slemish in Co. Antrim. He was so cold and lonely on this mountain that he said he used to pray 100 times during the day and 100 times during the night. He later became a Bishop. He helped lots of people in Ireland to come to know God. All Irish people today, wherever they are all over the world, are celebrating and remembering St Patrick.

**The Word
of God**

[*John 10:14-17*]

Leader We will now listen to some very special words which Jesus said.

Jesus said, 'I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and they know me. Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I lay down my life for my sheep. There are other sheep who are not of my flock, but I will look after them too, so that there will be one flock and one shepherd.'

**Response
to the
Word**

Leader

Just as St Patrick did his job minding the sheep on the hillside in Ireland, and just as Jesus said he would also look after his sheep and followers, we too must try to do what Jesus asks us to do.

Child 1/Adult

Jesus said he would always look after his flock, so, dear God, help us to always do what we are supposed to be doing at the right time.

All Lord hear our prayer

Child 2/Adult

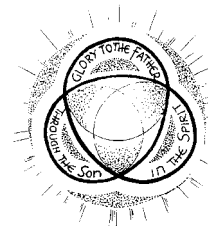
We pray today for the people of Ireland, and ask God to bring lots of peace to Ireland. Help all the people to really want peace.

All Lord hear our prayer

Child 3/Adult

St Patrick taught the people of Ireland about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Help us to make the Sign of the Cross slowly and with meaning every time we say our prayers.

All Lord hear our prayer



**Going
forth**

Leader

Let us be still for a moment and look again at our display. *[Play some soft pan pipes music for a short time.]* We think of Patrick and his great love of God and how he prayed a lot. Before we go we will ask God to help us be like Patrick and talk to other people about how happy we are and try to bring them the Good News, just as Patrick did for the Irish people.

As we go out we will sing

**Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.**