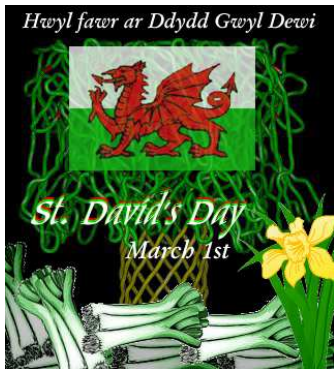


United Kingdom National Days



1 March

St. David's Day, the national day of Wales

Saint David is Wales's patron saint. He lived in the sixth century and spread the word of Christianity across Wales.

The most famous story about Saint David tells how he was preaching to a huge crowd and the ground is said to have risen up, so that he was standing on a hill and everyone had a better chance of hearing him.

17 March

St. Patrick's Day, the national day of Northern Ireland

Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He was born in Wales somewhere around AD 385. He was carried off by pirates and spent six years in slavery before escaping and training as a missionary.

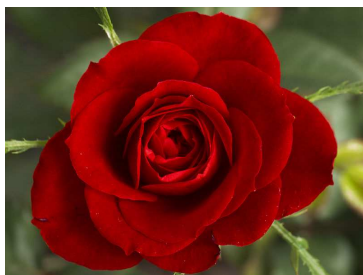
Saint Patrick's day is marked by the wearing of shamrocks, the national emblem of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated with parades in the large cities, the wearing of green and drinking Guinness.



23 April

St. George's Day, the national day of England



A story dating back to the 6th century tells that Saint George rescued a maiden by slaying a fearsome fire-breathing dragon.

By tradition, 23 April is the day for a red rose in the button hole, the national flower. However, unlike other countries, England does not celebrate it like Americans celebrate 4 July with fireworks. For most people in England Saint George's Day is just another ordinary working day.

30 November

St. Andrew's Day, the national day of Scotland

Saint Andrew was one of Christ's twelve apostles.

Saint Andrew's Day is often a celebration of general Scottishness with traditional food, music (especially bagpipes) and dancing.

