

To second class

St. Patrick

Many, many years ago, a boy named Patrick lived in a country across the sea from Ireland. When Patrick was sixteen years old, he was captured by raiders who came to the village where he lived. They took him away from his family and friends and put him on a ship. The ship sailed across the sea and brought Patrick to Ireland. When Patrick got off the ship, he was sold as a slave to a rich man. The man took Patrick to a mountain in County Antrim. Patrick had to look after the rich man's sheep on the mountain. He was very lonely. He had no one to talk to, except the sheep. It was very cold on the mountain and Patrick had very little food. Patrick stayed on the mountain for seven long years. Every day he prayed to God and asked God to bless his family. He told God that he wanted to go home. Patrick knew that God was always with him. Then one night, Patrick had a dream. In his dream, he saw a way to escape from the mountain. The next morning, when he awoke, he remembered his dream and he set off, down the mountain, heading home. Patrick walked and walked and walked. He was afraid that someone might capture him and take him back. He prayed to God. No one captured him. When he had walked a long, long time, he came to the sea. A ship was just about to leave. Patrick got on board the ship and soon he was back home again. He prayed to God. He thanked God for helping him and keeping him safe. He was happy to be home again. After a few years at home again in his own country, Patrick began to miss Ireland. He thought about it every day and every night. He thought about the people there. He was sad for them because they didn't know about God. No one ever told them about God. No one ever told them that God had created this beautiful world with mountains and seas and creatures and people. No one had ever told them that God loved them! And no one had ever told them that God sent Jesus, his Son, to live here on earth. Then, one night, Patrick had another dream. In this dream, he heard his name being called, 'Patrick! Patrick!' In his dream Patrick knew that the voices were calling him back to Ireland. He knew that he should go back there and teach the people about God's love for them. The next morning, Patrick set sail in another ship and returned to Ireland. The people of Ireland loved Patrick. They were glad he had told them about God's love. He stayed with them for as long as he lived. Now, every year, we have a

special day when we celebrate St. Patrick and remember how he brought us the good news of God's love for us.

After hearing the story take a minute of quiet.

For a prayer pray the sign of the cross and close your eyes listening to God for a minute.

Draw a picture of what you think St. Patrick looked like.

