



St. Patrick's Day

聖派屈克節

I Reading

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If you live in Asia, the **shamrock**—a common low-growing plant with three heart-shaped leaves on each **stem**¹—probably doesn't mean much to you. But show a shamrock to a Westerner, and the first thing that will **pop into** his or her **mind** is “St. Patrick's Day!”

Celebrated on March 17 each year, St. Patrick's Day is the day when the people of Ireland **commemorate**² their **patron** saint. And in other parts of the world, St. Patrick's Day has **evolved**³ into an **ethnic**⁴ holiday celebrating Irish **heritage**⁵, especially in places with a significant Irish **immigrant**⁶ **population**⁷, such as the United States.

But nowhere in the world does the holiday **bustle**⁸ with more noise and excitement than Dublin, the Irish **capital**⁹. Dublin's St. Patrick's Festival, the largest St. Patrick's Day celebration in the world,



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abounds with **carnival-style parades**¹⁰, spectacular fireworks, and outdoor dance events. People dress in green (the color of Ireland) from top to toe, drink Guinness® (Ireland's signature dark beer), and dance and sing from morning to night. But who was St. Patrick, and why is he so important to the Irish?

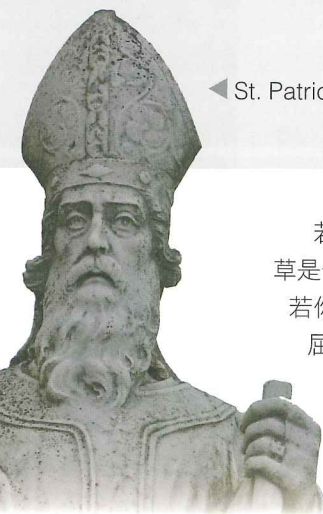


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| 1. stem [stem] (n.) 莖 | 7. population [ˌpɒpjəˈleɪʃən] (n.) 人口 |
| 2. commemorate [kəˈmeməˌret] (v.) 慶祝；紀念 | 8. bustle [ˈbʌsl] (v.) 充滿 |
| 3. evolve [ɪˈvɒlv] (v.) 演變 | 9. capital [ˈkæpətəl] (n.) 首都 |
| 4. ethnic [ˈɛθnɪk] (a.) 種族上的 | 10. parade [pəˈred] (n.) 遊行 |
| 5. heritage [ˈherɪtɪdʒ] (n.) 遺產；傳統 | ★ shamrock [ˈʃæmrək] (n.) 三葉草 |
| 6. immigrant [ˈɪmɪgrənt] (a.) 移民的 | ★ patron [ˈpetrən] (n.) 庇護者 |
| | ★ carnival [ˈkɑːnəvəl] (n.) 嘉年華會 |

phr. **pop into mind** 映入腦海



▲ shamrock



◀ St. Patrick

若你住在亞洲，三葉草可能對你而言沒有什麼意義。三葉草是一種矮小的植物，每根莖上都長著三片心形的小葉子。倘若你給西方人看三葉草，第一個湧上他／她念頭的是「聖派屈克節」。

聖派屈克節於每年三月 17 日舉行，是愛爾蘭人紀念主保聖人的日子。在世界其他地方，聖派屈克節已演變成慶祝愛爾蘭傳統的民族節慶，在愛爾蘭移民人口眾多的地方尤甚，例如美國。

但世上再也沒有其他地方，比愛爾蘭首都都柏林用更震耳欲聾的聲響和熱情迎接這個節慶。全世界最盛大的聖派屈克節慶祝活動是都柏林的聖派屈克慶典，充滿嘉年華式的遊行、壯觀的煙火和戶外舞蹈活動。人們從頭到腳會身著綠色服裝（愛爾蘭的代表色），飲用健力士啤酒（愛爾蘭的著名黑啤酒），並從早到晚歌舞不歇。但是，聖派屈克到底是誰？他又為何對愛爾蘭人如此重要？

▼ St. Patrick's Day parade

