



St. Patrick's Day celebrations use many images and symbols. Of all the days in the year, excluding Christmas, St. Patrick's Day seems to have more symbols than any other day.

Green is the dominant color!

Bands and Parades

Irish Dancing in the Streets

Green Beer

Green Ice Cream

Shamrocks

Leprechauns



Most of us have come from Irish roots dating back to the 18th century. If we do not claim Irish heritage, our Mercy roots are in Ireland. Many of us have had the opportunity to visit Ireland and to spend time in our founding place at Baggot Street in Dublin. Many of us also have had opportunity to visit different parts of Ireland and to experience the beauty of the country, its rich history, culture and heritage and the beauty, strength and determination of the people.

So today, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, we are invited to reflect on our historical and spiritual roots. We are invited to revisit our founding story so deeply connected to the life and faith of the people that Catherine McAuley loved and served in Ireland and who emigrated to all parts of the English-speaking world. We appreciate that Irish Franciscan, Bishop Fleming, who fought for the rights of the Irish in Newfoundland, who brought to this island the Presentation and Mercy Sisters and Christian Brothers to educate the children, who had enough of the fighting Irish spirit to struggle with political and social powers to improve the life of the oppressed, the disenfranchised and those living in poverty in this "new land". We are part of that story!



An Irish Blessing

May the blessing of light be upon you
Light on the outside, light on the inside.
With God's sunlight shining on you,
May your heart glow with warmth,
Like a turf fire that welcomes friends and strangers alike.
May the light of the Lord shine from your eyes,
Like a candle in the window,
Welcoming the weary traveller.
May the blessing of God's soft rain be on you,
Falling gently on your head
Refreshing your soul with the sweetness of little flowers newly blooming.
May the strength of the winds of heaven bless you
Carrying the rain to wash your spirit clean
Sparkling after in the sunlight.
May the blessing of God's earth be upon you
And as you walk the roads
May you always have a kind word for those you meet.
May you understand the strength and power of God in a
thunderstorm and winter
and the quiet beauty of creation
And the calm of a summer sunset.
And may you come to realize
That, insignificant as you may seem in this great universe
You are an important part of God's plan.
May God watch over you
And keep you safe from harm.

<https://vimeo.com/283000349>
From the chapel at Baggot Street

An Irish Blessing Phil Coulter
Marie Cox, Frances Kennedy
and Patricia O'Donovan
Narrated: Aine McGoldrick