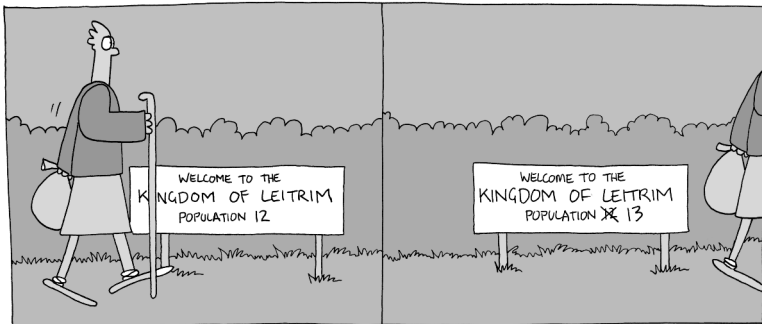


The Kingdoms of Ireland

🌿 Ireland at this time was divided into 150 tiny little kingdoms, so it must have been a bitch for paparazzi to keep tabs on the shenanigans of all the royal families. Minor kings were subjects of a less minor king who in turn took his orders from one of the five provincial kings, the provinces being Leinster, Ulster, Connaught, Munster and Meath, in which was located the seat of the High Kingship of Tara. Among the more famous kings who ruled here were Niall of the Nine Hostages (AD 377-405.) More recently the area has been under the rule of Dick of the Fifteen Dossers (AD 2002-2007), who decided to build a giant motorway through one of the most important archaeological sites in Ireland.






'St. Patrick... one of the few saints whose feast day presents the opportunity to get determinedly whacked and make a fool of oneself, all under the guise of acting Irish.'

————— Charles M Madigan, American Journalist

AD 432

ARRIVAL OF ST PATRICK

The first real Paddy

 In those days, the Irish regularly made wild plundering forays into Britain, much the way Irish Manchester United fans do most weekends. On one of these raids, they captured a youth of sixteen and kept him in slavery for six years. But the future St Paddy escaped, fled home, became a bishop, had a dream of converting us Pagan scum to Christianity, came back and did just that. Legend has it that he used the shamrock as a symbol to explain the Holy

Trinity and that he banished the snakes from Ireland, though a number still survive, disguised as county councillors. St Patrick's success in converting countless

FAIR PLAY TO YA PADDY!




fragmented, pagan kingdoms to Christianity is celebrated each year on 17 March by Irish and pretendy Irish people all over

the world wearing giant styrofoam pastiches of him on their heads, drinking twelve pints of green beer, then puking into their chicken curry.

AD 500 – 800

Ireland's Golden Age

 During this period Irish monastic settlements were considered the Harvard or Yale of their day, the key difference being that all the students didn't have yellow sweaters with the sleeves tied across their shoulders and drive Porsches. Irish monks preserved much of Europe's written heritage and also set about re-Christianising the continent, missionaries forming churches as far away as Vienna and Kiev.

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ENLIGHTENMENT



Among the most famous missionaries was Columcille, who converted the Picts of Scotland. Ireland became known as 'The Land of Saints and Scholars', as opposed to now when it's become known as 'The Land of Overpriced Apartments and Mindless Planning'.



Thousand-year-old Dubs

In 1988 Dublin celebrated its 'Millennium', it being officially one thousand years old. There were several reasons this date was chosen. Firstly, in 988 the High King, Mael Sechnaill Mac Domnaill, deposed the Norse King of Dublin and renamed it Baile Átha Cliath, the Town of the Hurdle Ford. [Dublin was the original Norse name, from Dubh Linn meaning 'black pool'.] Of course any of a hundred other events could have been selected as the moment Dublin was founded. So another reason 1988 was picked was that the Eighties were really crap in Ireland economically and we needed to get more tourists to visit us. And finally it made a nice rhyming slogan: 'Dublin's great in '88.'