



At last the special day was here! Mama ironed Olanna's band uniform and put ribbons in her hair.

Papa bought some shamrock and pinned it on Olanna's uniform. He pinned a big bunch on his coat and on Mama's new dress. They were ready to go!



As they were leaving, Olanna grabbed her green and white scarf and wrapped it around her neck. She hoped the band leader wouldn't notice. They weren't supposed to wear scarves with their uniforms, but Olanna wanted Mama-Bayo to be part of the parade too.



The band met in the car park near the church. The sun was shining but it was a cold day. The children stamped their feet to keep warm.

Ciara noticed Olanna's green and white scarf.

'Did your granny knit that scarf for Saint Patrick's Day?' she asked.

'Not really. Green and white are the Nigerian colours,' Olanna told her. 'But they're the right colours for Saint Patrick's Day too!'

Nearby some of the other performers were getting ready. There were girls in Irish dancing costumes, their ringlets bouncing as they practised their steps.



There were men wearing kilts and carrying strange-looking instruments.

‘They’re bagpipes,’ Tommy explained. ‘You have to blow into them very hard and they make a strange noise – like cats!’

