

## Rosemary's Reflections – March 2019

Did you know that March is National Celery Month as well as Frozen Food Month? Are you aware that in March you can celebrate Pig Day and Earmuff Day, as well as National Goof-off Day, National Chocolate-covered Raisin Day and If Pets Had Thumbs Day? (And no, I didn't make that one up.) Or did you know that Albert Einstein, Harry Houdini, Vincent Van Gogh and J.S. Bach all have March birthdays? Not to mention Dr. Seuss, Mikhail Gorbachev and Wyatt Earp?



And then of course there's St Patrick. You can't have March without him, even though we don't know exactly when he was born. But Patrick's Feast Day is March 17 and a great occasion for the Irish (and all those who would like to be Irish) to wear green and celebrate appropriately. Patrick, of course, is famous for more than ridding Ireland of snakes and popularizing the shamrock. He was a man of God, dedicated to prayer, who according to a biographer "caused Christ's gospel to be welcomed far and wide in Ireland." Tradition has it that initially Patrick resisted God's call but eventually said yes and went to Ireland as a missionary bishop. During his ministry Patrick endured hardships, challenged chieftains and organized the Church. Yet he was a humble man who once wrote "I, Patrick, a sinner, am the most ignorant and of least account among the faithful, despised by many... I owe it to God's grace that so many people should through me be born again to him."

All the days mentioned above are significant in the lives of certain people but there is one day in March that is particularly significant for all of us. Come to think of it, it's significant in every month. And that day is today. In the Bible we read that "**This** is the day that the Lord has made." (Ps 118:24). Every day of every year is a gift from God even the bad-hair ones. Every day contains at least one blessing. Every day holds at least one encounter with God in nature or in relationships, through a word written or spoken, through medical miracles or scientific discoveries, in the sound of music or random acts of kindness. "**This** is the day that the Lord has made," says the psalmist and then adds "We will rejoice and give thanks in it." And we do this best through the way we live, the way we share with and care for the world and its people, the way we follow Jesus. May these words attributed to St Patrick be our inspiration for today and all our todays:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.