



EDITION 64 MARCH 2020

**Saint Patrick's Day** on March 17<sup>th</sup>, when everyone claims to be a little bit Irish is now seen as the world's most celebrated national holiday. Apart from St Patrick's Day what are the symbols that people all over the world most associate with Ireland?



**The Irish flag** also known as the Tricolour, was first flown in Waterford in 1848 by a young Irish rebel, Thomas Francis Meagher. The green of the flag represents

the Catholics of Ireland, the orange is for the Irish Protestants and the white as a symbol of peace between the two. Meagher was leader of a group called the Young Irelanders who held a rising during the famine. Soon after he was arrested and sent to Tasmania, an island off the coast of Australia. At the time, prisoners were sent to faraway places such as Australia and America, never to return or see their families again.

The tricolour was not seen again until it was raised above the GPO during the 1916 Rising. It became the official Irish flag in 1937. Before this the flag was green with a gold harp in the middle.

As for Thomas Meagher, he escaped to America, by working on board an American ship. He joined the Irish American brigade of the American Army where he was made the general in charge and fought in the American Civil War. He never returned to Ireland. When former US President John F. Kennedy visited Ireland in 1963, he presented the flag of the brigade Meagher led during the American Civil War to the Irish people and today it hangs in Dáil Éireann.

**The shamrock**

It is said that in the 5<sup>th</sup> century Saint Patrick used the shamrock with its 3 leaves on one stem to explain to the Irish people the Christian belief of 3 persons in one God.



The shamrock is easily the symbol that people immediately associate with Ireland. Many organisations such as Aer Lingus and the Irish Rugby Union have a shamrock in their emblem. In years gone by Irish people would post shamrock to relations in other parts of the world for St Patrick's Day so they could wear it on the day.

It has become the tradition every year for the Taoiseach to visit the White House and present the US president with a Waterford Crystal bowl of shamrock.

**The Irish harp**, although not as popular as the shamrock is in fact the official emblem of Ireland. It is printed on all government official documents, on Irish coins and on Irish passports. Many Irish businesses such as Guinness and Ryan Air use it as a logo. The Irish



harp has a long tradition in Irish culture. Over 1,000 years ago all wealthy families had their own personal harpist to entertain them. It is said that the once High King of Ireland, Brian Ború, who was killed in 1014 played the harp. In 1531 the then King of England, Henry VIII declared himself King of Ireland and loved the sound of the harp so much that he made it the emblem of Ireland and stamped it on all coins where it has remained since.

**The Claddagh Ring** is a ring with the design of a heart with a crown held by two hands. It is

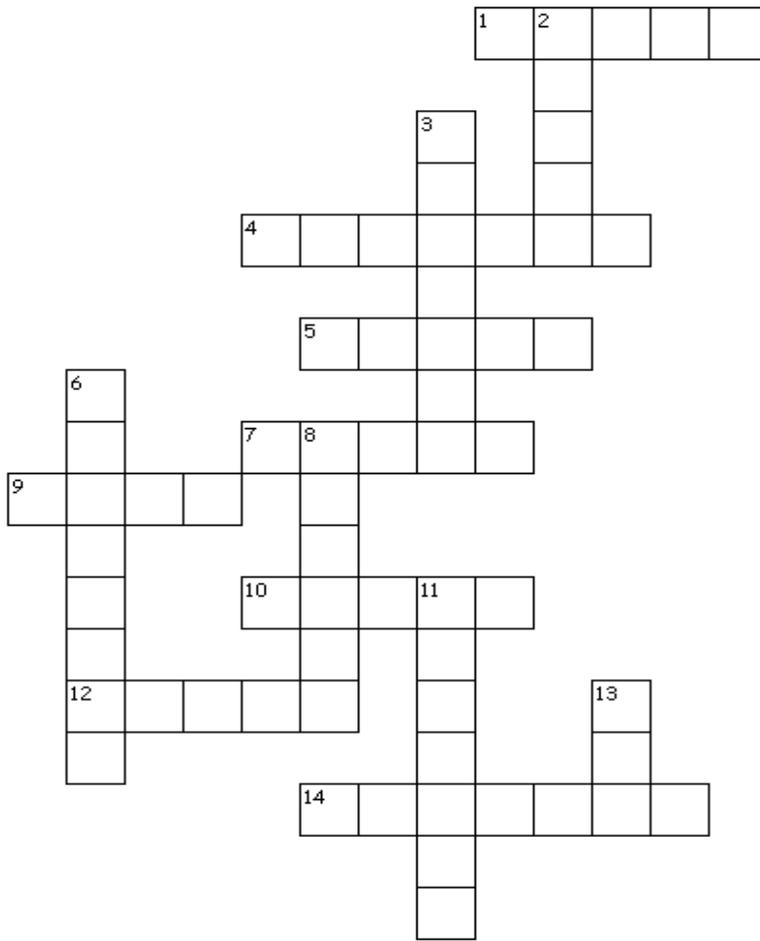


said the heart represents love, the hands friendship and the crown is for loyalty. Tradition says that if the ring is worn on the right hand with the heart facing out, then the wearer is looking for love. However, if it is worn with the heart facing in, then the wearer has already found love.

It is believed that the ring was first made by a man from the Claddagh area of Galway, Richard Joyce who left both Galway and the girl he loved to go abroad to make his fortune. However, the ship he sailed in was taken by pirates and Joyce was sold into slavery to a goldsmith in Africa. Here he learned the craft himself and when he was freed, he returned to Galway, married his sweetheart and made her a ring that we now know as the Claddagh Ring.

# Jumbo Crossword

The answers to the clues are all connected with Ireland



## Across

1. Everything turns this colour on St Patrick's Day (5)
4. Our national game (7)
5. Cliffs of Moher are in this county (5)
7. Smallest county in Ireland (5)
9. Musical instrument that is printed on all Irish coins (4)
10. Airport in Co. Mayo (5)
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Park, our national GAA stadium in Dublin (5)
14. Longest river in Ireland (7)

## Down

2. Saoirse \_\_\_\_\_ successful Irish actress (5)
3. The Titanic Centre is in this city (7)
6. A small leaf worn by people on St Patrick's Day (8)
8. Green, white and \_\_\_\_\_, the Irish flag (6)
11. Bacon and \_\_\_\_\_, popular Irish dinner (7)
13. Largest post office in Ireland, in O Connell street Dublin (3)

Fill in the names of these **popular Irish food brands**

- G \_\_\_\_\_ rashers  
 T \_\_\_\_\_ crisps  
 Clo \_\_\_\_\_ black pudding  
 Ba \_\_\_\_\_ Tea  
 J \_\_\_\_\_ cream crackers  
 Br \_\_\_\_\_ bread  
 Mi - \_\_\_\_\_ orange  
 Bally \_\_\_\_\_ natural water  
 Bally \_\_\_\_\_ relish  
 Av \_\_\_\_\_ milk  
 K \_\_\_\_\_ butter  
 Fl \_\_\_\_\_ porridge

Fill in the names of these famous Irish people

1. Ireland's First woman President  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Lead singer with U2 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Irish female runner who won an Olympic medal in 2000  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Former presenter of the Late Late Show for 30 years  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Famous Irish poet who died in 1939  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Former One Direction member and singer \_\_\_\_\_
7. Founder of the Chernobyl Children's charity \_\_\_\_\_
8. Kilkenny hurling manager  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. 2 FM Radio presenter who passed away recently  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. He won the Eurovision three times  
\_\_\_\_\_

## answers

1. Mary Robinson, 2. Bono, 3. Sonia O Sullivan, 4. Gay Byrne, 5. WB Yeats, 6. Niall Horan, 7. Adi Roche, 8. Brian Cody, 9. Larry Gogan, 10. Johnny Logan