



Ambasáid na hÉireann  
Embassy of Ireland

## Embassy of Ireland in Bratislava Newsletter | SPD 2021 online

Welcome to our St. Patrick's Day newsletter. We hope that you and your loved ones are all safe and healthy and that you will be able to join us for our upcoming online events. And we hope you will be able to join us later in the year for traditional in person meetings at events we hope to host for you.

In this edition of our newsletter we're promoting many great **online events** scheduled for the Irish national day, or St. Patrick's Day as you probably know it.

**Greening** has become a global visual tool of St. Patrick's Day and Irish outreach. We are pleased to confirm that at least 10 institutions and municipalities across Slovakia will join in this celebration of the Irish-Slovak friendship. This year, our business community will join as well, sending an even stronger message of partnership and cooperation.

Furthermore, the Department of Foreign Affairs has adopted a new approach, reflecting both the pandemic and the climate change. With the catchy name "**greening with a meaning**". Embassy Bratislava gone with a sustainable and environmentally friendly project of tree planting. The Irish national tree, the mighty oak, was chosen for its longevity and suitability for the Slovak climate. We have already discussed with several municipalities involved in the greening of landmarks about planting Irish oaks there, and we will continue our outreach to others. Please let us know about towns, villages, parks, etc. where you would welcome an Irish oak.

Last but not least, we would like to invite you to celebrate the **20th anniversary** of the Embassy with us. We are currently going through our archive where we have found many photographs from back in the day, including some of you who have been with us all this time 😊 We call on you to share your pictures, stories and memories either with us or by sharing them on social media with the hashtag #20rokovIrskanaSlovensku. The anniversary will be our theme of the year, starting with St Patrick's Day and culminating in October. We will keep you posted on all plans and activities. Until then, please follow our Facebook to walk down memory lane with us.

Hope you will enjoy it!

The Embassy of Ireland in  
Bratislava





## IRISH CULTURE IS ALIVE

### Irish dance with Avalon

The “New Normal” offers many opportunities to learn something new. We suggest you try some Irish dance in Bratislava. Age is no limit. Avalon Academy of Irish dance offers classes to both children and adults. For more, visit Avalon [website](#).

### Christmas video

Our gift to everyone came in a musical form. A joint effort of the Embassy, Gemini – an Irish music band from Trnava, and Avalon Academy of Irish Dance, created a beautiful music video of dance and music in time for Christmas. If you have not seen it yet, you can enjoy it [here](#).

## ST PATRICK’S DAY 2021

We are truly sorry that for the second year in row, we are unable to celebrate our national day together. As a small consolation, we offer some virtual connection with us and the Irish community around the world. Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

### Ambassador’s message to you

As Ambassador Ó Riain is leaving us this year, she was very much looking forward to hosting an in person St. Patrick’s Day reception in Bratislava. Sadly, the pandemic has locked her at home like all of us, and the only safe way to celebrate SPD is online. She recorded a video message for you, our dear Irish community in Slovakia. You can watch it on our Facebook page on the 17<sup>th</sup>!

### St Patrick’s Day Reception

The Embassy will host an online reception at 17:00 local time on Wednesday 17 March. We will offer you greetings from An Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Ambassador Hilda Ó Riain, as well as a rich cultural program. We invite you to join by registering [here](#). The event is part of an initiative that offers an array of content to help us all celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. The ‘Virtual Ireland House’ on the Ireland.ie platform will provide visitors with access to the reception, and many themed “rooms”. See you there!

## A St Patrick's Day Late Late Show

After all of the excitement of the big day, don't forget that The Late Late Show will broadcast a special St. Patrick's Day show – the first Wednesday night screening in its almost 60 year history! We love that Irish communities abroad had the [chance to get involved](#) and we will be hoping to hear some voices from Slovakia! You should be able to watch the event on the RTE Player.

## St Patrick's Festival

The Festival will run online on St Patrick's Festival TV (SPF TV) at [stpatricksfestival.ie](http://stpatricksfestival.ie) from March 12 to 17. It will tell stories of our dynamic, modern, diverse culture, and celebrate our proud ancient traditions, offering more than 100 events for the nation to enjoy.

## Concert of Irish music from the region

Join us for a musical celebration with Super Céilí in a live session directly from Ireland. Irish missions in the Central European region have joined forces in order to bring

you a rich and unique cross border St. Patrick's Day festivities. We hope to give you a taste of the many Irish music groups in Austria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, highlighting the wonderful spread and influence of Irish music and dance in the region. Join us and start the weekend in style. Not to be missed so register early! More information available [here](#).



## St Patrick's Day at home

Besides all the online content, we can offer another treat over the next two pages, for you and your children to do this time of year. All you need is a pen.

# THE LAND OF ST. PATRICK





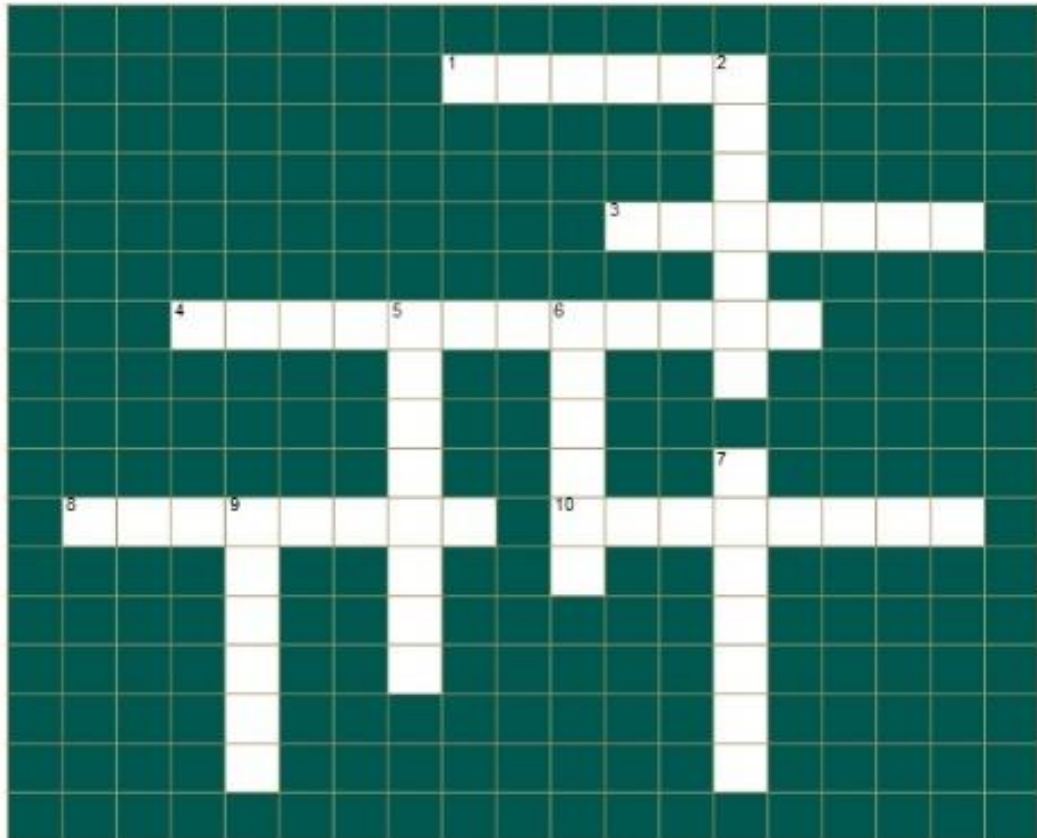
# ST PATRICK'S A GLOBAL CELEBRATION DAY

## Across

- 1: According to legend, St Patrick drove these out of Ireland (6)
- 3: In Ireland, Patrick spent six years living by this mountain (7)
- 4: St Patrick brought this religion to Ireland (12)
- 8: When Patrick was captured and brought to Ireland, he worked as a \_\_\_\_ (8)
- 10: Iconic landmarks around the world turning green each year is known as the Global \_\_\_\_ (8)

## Down

- 2: Today, St Patrick's Day connects approximately \_\_\_\_ million people of Irish ancestry (7)
- 5: It is believed that St Patrick used this three-leaf clover to explain the Holy Trinity (8)
- 6: St Patrick established a church in this county (6)
- 7: This city hosted the first official St Patrick's Day parade in 1762 (3, 4)
- 9: St Patrick is the \_\_\_\_ Saint of Ireland (6)



Across - 1. Snakes; 3. Shamrock; 4. Christianity; 8. Shepherd; 10. Greening  
Down - 2. Seventy; 5. Shamrock; 6. Armagh; 7. New York; 9. Patron



Ireland

## Travel tips from the Ambassador

After almost 7 years of posting in Slovakia within almost two decades, Ambassador Ó Riain has several recommendations for great places to visit in Slovakia. Her favourite spots stretch across the country and include both nature and culture.

### Malé Karpaty – hikes in the capital

Any of you who know me will be well aware that my favourite place to be is in the mountains, and this is what drew me back to Slovakia for a second time. Particularly since the start of the pandemic, you will find me in the Malé Karpaty most weekends. I can see them from my desk as I write this, and I will miss them very much when I leave. The different seasons offer different challenges when hiking, but it is to the credit of the Slovak authorities that they are continuously expanding and improving the range of paths in the mountains. While the paths near Bratislava such as around Kamzík are very popular and well frequented, it is easy to find empty paths further down the ridge. [www.mapy.cz](http://www.mapy.cz) is a great website (and app) to find new paths and interesting places to visit.

You can get inspired in the following videos of Malé Karpaty [here](#) and [here](#).

### Spiš – Irish nuns and cultural heritage

While I didn't have the opportunity to travel in Slovakia as often as I would have liked to, I was very lucky to have been able to spend two weeks in the Central and Eastern parts of the country last summer. I still dream of making it as far as the Polish/Ukrainian border and hike up to the marker of that border, but I did get as far as Bardejov last year. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site for a very good reason, and my children and I enjoyed a few days there combining work (meetings with the Mayor and others) with pleasure (climbing up to the top of the Elisabeth Church and visiting their equivalent of the Dead Zoo).

A video of Bardejov is [here](#) and of wooden churches in the east [here](#)

Another highlight of that trip was spending a few days with Sister Anne in Spišské Podhradie and climbing up to Spiš Castle. The Sisters do such wonderful work with Roma children in the region, and I have always been happy to support that work when I can. I also visited nearby Spišská Kapitula and toured the amazing cathedral there. In Kežmarok I met the Mayor, and was given a tour of the famous Protestant wooden church and the library where Hviezdoslav studied. Levoča is a particular favourite location for me with so much to see and experience.

A video of Spiš can be watched [here](#)

I still have some places that I want to visit before I leave, including Orava castle and the towns along the border to Hungary. Hopefully things will open up before I leave, but even if they don't, I will be back often to visit my friends here.

A video of Orava castle can be accessed [here](#)

## Gastronomic fusion

For our St. Patrick's Day Newsletter we have a special treat. Two Irish expats have created a new company bringing you a taste of home in Central Europe. Their website: [www.curemeats.com](http://www.curemeats.com) supplies everything you need to make authentic Irish sausages at home, as well as curing salts and spices for various British and European style sausages, and for a range of bacon from proper rashers to Sichuan spiced pork belly, as well as a range of seasonings and rubs as we head into BBQ season.

The recipe they have provided below makes approximately 1kg of Irish sausages and uses their "Irish Breakfast Sausage Seasoning". One pack contains enough seasoning for six batches of sausages. Having tasted the results we can attest to the truth of their claim that these will remind you of a well know supermarket brand that Irish people both love and miss.

### Ingredients:

700g Pork Mince  
25g CureMeats Irish Breakfast Sausage Seasoning  
110g hard bread crumbs  
Water

### Steps:

1. Mince 700g of pork trim through 5mm plate or buy from butcher
2. Add 25g seasoning
3. Add 165ml water and mix thoroughly
4. Add 110g of hard bread crumb and mix until water is absorbed
5. Mix well
6. Form with your hands or fill into casings
7. Fry and enjoy

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK:



*To unsubscribe from the Newsletter simply respond with the word "unsubscribe".*