

Irish:
Blessings,
Curses,
Quotations,
Proverbs
& **T**oasts

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Irish Blessings

May the road rise to meet you.
 May the wind be always at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face.
 And rains fall soft upon your fields.
 And until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

May you live as long as you want,
 And never want as long as you live.

Always remember to forget
 The things that made you sad.
 But never forget to remember
 The things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget
 The friends that proved untrue.
 But never forget to remember
 Those that have stuck by you.

Always remember to forget
 The troubles that passed away.
 But never forget to remember
 The blessings that come each day.

May the saddest day of your future be no worse
 Than the happiest day of your past.

May the roof above us never fall in.
 And may the friends gathered below it never fall out.

May you have warm words on a cold evening,
 A full moon on a dark night,
 And the road downhill all the way to your door.

May there be a generation of children
 On the children of your children.

May you live to be a hundred years,

With one extra year to repent!

May the Lord keep you in His hand
And never close His fist too tight.

May your neighbors respect you,
Trouble neglect you,
The angels protect you,
And heaven accept you.

May the Irish hills caress you.
May her lakes and rivers bless you.
May the luck of the Irish enfold you.
May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.

May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light,
May good luck pursue you each morning and night.

Walls for the wind,
And a roof for the rain,
And drinks beside the fire -
Laughter to cheer you
And those you love near you,
And all that your heart may desire!

May God be with you and bless you,
May you see your children's children,
May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings.
May you know nothing but happiness
From this day forward.

May God grant you many years to live,
For sure He must be knowing
The earth has angels all too few
And heaven is overflowing.

May peace and plenty be the first
To lift the latch to your door,
And happiness be guided to your home
By the candle of Christmas.

May you always have work for your hands to do.
May your pockets hold always a coin or two.
May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.
May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near you.
And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

A Wedding Prayer

By the power that Christ brought from heaven,
mayst thou love me.
As the sun follows its course,
mayst thou follow me.
As light to the eye,
as bread to the hungry,
as joy to the heart,
may thy presence be with me,
oh one that I love,
'til death comes to part us asunder.

Irish Curses

May those who love us love us.
 And those that don't love us,
 May God turn their hearts.
 And if He doesn't turn their hearts,
 May he turn their ankles,
 So we'll know them by their limping.

May the enemies of Ireland never meet a friend.

May the curse of Mary Malone and her nine blind illegitimate children
 chase you so far over the hills of Damnation that the Lord himself can't
 find you with a telescope.

May you melt off the earth like snow off the ditch.

May his pipe never smoke, may his teapot be broke
 And to add to the joke, may his kettle ne'er boil,
 May he keep to the bed till the hour that he's dead,
 May he always be fed on hogwash and boiled oil,
 May he swell with the gout, may his grinders fall out,
 May he roll howl and shout with the horrid toothache,
 May the temples wear horns, and the toes many corns,
 Of the monster that murdered Nell Flaherty's drake.

May his spade never dig may his sow never pig
 May each hair on his wig be well thrashed with a flail
 May his door have no latch, may his house have no thatch,
 May his turkey not hatch, may the rats eat his meat
 May every old fairy, from Cork to Dunleary,
 Dip him snug and airy in river or lake,
 Where the eel and the trout may feed on the snout
 Of the monster that murdered Neill Falheerty's drake

Quotes about Ireland

St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time – a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic.

Adrienne Cook

This is one race of people for whom psychoanalysis is of no use whatsoever.

Sigmund Freud (about the Irish)

Ireland is rich in literature that understands a soul's yearnings, and dancing that understands a happy heart.

Margaret Jackson

The problem with Ireland is that it's a country full of genius, but with absolutely no talent.

Hugh Leonard

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and fat.

Alex Levine

O Ireland isn't it grand you look--
Like a bride in her rich adornin?
And with all the pent-up love of my heart
I bid you the top o' the mornin!

John Locke "The Exile's Return"

Maybe it's bred in the bone, but the sound of pipes is a little bit of heaven to some of us.

Nancy O'Keefe

In Ireland the inevitable never happens and the unexpected constantly occurs.

Sir John Pentland Mahaffy

I'm troubled, I'm dissatisfied. I'm Irish.

Marianne Moore "Spenser's Ireland"

On she went, and her maiden smile
In safety lighted her round the Green Isle;
And blest forever was she who relied
Upon Erin's honor and Erin's pride.

Thomas Moore

There is no language like the Irish for soothing and quieting.

John Millington Synge

Irish Proverbs

A drink precedes a story.

A friend's eye is a good mirror.

A hen is heavy when carried far.

A hound's food is in its legs.

A lock is better than suspicion.

A silent mouth is melodious.

A trade not properly learned is an enemy.

Age is honorable and youth is noble.

As the big hound is, so will the pup be.

Be neither intimate nor distant with the clergy.

Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.

Even a small thorn causes festering.

Good as drink is, it ends in thirst.

He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you.

He who gets a name for early rising can stay in bed until midday.

If you do not sow in the spring you will not reap in the autumn.

If you want to be criticized, marry.

Instinct is stronger than upbringing.

It is a bad hen that does not scratch herself.

It is a long road that has no turning.

It is better to exist unknown to the law.

It is not a secret if it is known by three people.

It is sweet to drink but bitter to pay for.

It is the good horse that draws its own cart.

It is the quiet pigs that eat the meal.

It takes time to build castles. Rome was not built in a day.

It's not a matter of upper and lower class but of being up a while and down a while.

Lack of resource has hanged many a person.

Listen to the sound of the river and you will get a trout.

May you have a bright future - as the chimney sweep said to his son.

Mere words do not feed the friars.

Nature breaks through the eyes of the cat.

Necessity is the mother of invention.

Necessity knows no law.

Need teaches a plan.

Patience is poultice for all wounds.

Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.

You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was.

People live in each other's shelter.

Put silk on a goat, and it's still a goat.

Quiet people are well able to look after themselves.

The day will come when the cow will have use for her tail.

The hole is more honorable than the patch.

The light heart lives long.

The man with the boots does not mind where he places his foot.

The mills of God grind slowly but they grind finely.

The raggy colt often made a powerful horse.

The smallest thing outlives the human being.

The wearer best knows where the shoe pinches.

The well fed does not understand the lean.

The work praises the man.

The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey.

There is hope from the sea, but none from the grave.

There is no fireside like your own fireside.

There is no luck except where there is discipline.

There is no need like the lack of a friend.

There is no strength without unity.

Thirst is the end of drinking and sorrow is the end of drunkenness.

Three diseases without shame: Love, itch and thirst.

Time is a great story teller.

Two shorten the road.

Two thirds of the work is the semblance.

Walk straight, my son - as the old crab said to the young crab.

When a twig grows hard it is difficult to twist it. Every beginning is weak.

When fire is applied to a stone it cracks.

When the apple is ripe it will fall.

When the drop (drink) is inside, the sense is outside.

When the liquor was gone the fun was gone.

Wine divulges truth.

You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me, come and live with me.

Youth sheds many a skin. The steed (horse) does not retain its speed forever.

Irish Drinking Toasts

May your glass be ever full.
 May the roof over your head be always strong.
 And may you be in heaven
 half an hour before the devil knows you're dead.

Here's to me, and here's to you,
 And here's to love and laughter-
 I'll be true as long as you,
 And not one moment after.

Here's to you and yours
 And to mine and ours.
 And if mine and ours
 Ever come across to you and yours,
 I hope you and yours will do
 As much for mine and ours
 As mine and ours have done
 For you and yours!

Health and life to you;
 The mate of your choice to you;
 Land without rent to you,
 And death in Erin.

Here's a toast to your enemies' enemies!

When we drink, we get drunk.
 When we get drunk, we fall asleep.
 When we fall asleep, we commit no sin.
 When we commit no sin, we go to heaven.
 So, let's all get drunk, and go to heaven!

Here's to a long life and a merry one.
 A quick death and an easy one.
 A pretty girl and an honest one.
 A cold beer—and another one!

Here's to our wives and girlfriends:
 May they never meet!