

St Martin's celebration is on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. He was an archbishop in the IV century. He has been one of the most famous saints in the world. Now he is remembered in all Europe with proverbs and parties and in Italy he's the protector of Belluno. He was born in the 316 in Pannonia between Hungary and Austria. His dad called him Martin to remember, Mars, the God of war. He became a soldier. During a winter night, Martin had met a wayfarer, who suffered from cold. He did not have money so he cut a piece of his cape and he gave him. He spread everywhere Christianity and he decided to found a monastery near Poitiers, in France, and he became the archbishop of Tours. He died in Candes and he was buried in Tours on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Many pilgrims went there to ask Saint for healing off all diseases. San Martin's celebration became like New Year's Eve because on the 11th of November since last century schools began and people did general elections. Children were happy because they received presents. It's also a tradition killing the pork on that day. People revelled and they had sumptuous banquets, they finished all old wine and they tasted new one. In Italy there was a proverb that say: "Per San Martino ogni mosto è vino". On St Martin's day people used to have goose and chestnuts.

Martinmas is one of the four divisions of the legal year, historically used as the days when contracts and leases would begin and end and servants would be hired or dismissed. Martinmas and Whitsunday are the term days, and together Candlemas and Lammas they constitute the Quarter Days. In Scotland Martinmas originally was on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November but then the dates were regularised by the Term and Quarter Days Act 1990 and now Martinmas is on St Martin's day.