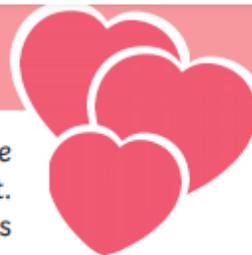


Valentines Day



Valentine's Day is an event that focuses on acts of love and gift giving. The celebration is also often called St. Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine. It is marked worldwide every year on the 14th of February.

The Real Saint Valentine

There have been many important Christian people named Valentine or Valentinus throughout history. Three of these people have been recognised as **saints** by the Catholic Church! This means that there is often confusion about the exact person that Valentine's Day is named after. The person who is most commonly thought of on Valentine's Day is a Christian **priest** who lived in Rome during the third century AD.

Very few facts about the life of Saint Valentine can be checked. It is widely believed that he lived during the reign of the Roman emperor, Claudius II. It is said that Emperor Claudius II wanted to create a powerful army and he thought that Roman soldiers performed their duties better when they were unmarried. So, the Emperor is believed to have set a new law that stopped all members of the Roman army from marrying.

Saint Valentine did not support Emperor Claudius's new law. Instead, he helped Roman soldiers to marry in secret. Before long, Saint Valentine's secret actions were uncovered. When he was told to stop, Saint Valentine refused so the Emperor ordered for him to be put in prison.

'Your Valentine'

It is also said that Saint Valentine became close to a woman named Julia. Julia was the daughter of Asterius, who had jailed Saint Valentine on behalf of the Emperor. The legend says that Saint Valentine wrote a letter to Julia and that he signed off by writing 'your Valentine'. Some people believe that this is how the idea of sending romantic letters from 'your Valentine' began but many **scholars** think that this retelling has been heavily exaggerated.

St. Valentine's Day

In AD 496, Pope Gelasius created the Feast of Saint Valentine. The date for this event was set as the 14th of February as this is believed to mark the date that Saint Valentine died in AD 269. It was not until over 1,000 years later that this date became a day for gift giving when couples started to express their love for one another through the giving of flowers, sweets, chocolates and cards. These became known as valentines and this is a tradition that we still observe today. It is estimated that people in the UK spent £855 million celebrating Valentine's Day in 2020!

Glossary

priest: A person who performs religious ceremonies and duties.

saints: People who are acknowledged as holy or virtuous and highly regarded in the Christian faith. Saints are often prayed to for specific types of help.

scholars: Specialists in a particular area of study.

Friday 12th February 2021- Mild

LO: To learn about the history of Valentine's Day.

1. **It is marked worldwide every year on the 14th of February.**

Which word could the author have used instead of the phrase 'every year'? Tick one.

- rarely
- annually
- monthly
- occasionally

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened during Saint Valentine's life.

- Saint Valentine's secret actions were uncovered.
- Emperor Claudius II is said to have set a new law.
- Saint Valentine helped Roman soldiers to marry in secret.
- Saint Valentine refused to stop helping soldiers to marry.

3. Fill in the missing words.

The person who is most commonly thought of on Valentine's Day is a Christian _____ who lived in Rome during the _____ century AD.

4. Look at the section called '**Your Valentine**'.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'to make something look bigger or better than it actually was'.

5. What was the name of the person who had jailed Saint Valentine on behalf of the Emperor?

6. Summarise what you have learnt about Saint Valentine using 15 words or fewer.

7. Comment on what kind of person you think Emperor Claudius II was and give a reason for your answer.

8. Why do you think that people now exchange gifts on Valentine's Day?
