

St. Valentine

Valentine is believed to have been a third century martyr, in spite of some confusion about his identity. In the Roman martyrology there are two Valentines listed; one a bishop, the other a priest - although many now believe they could be one and the same person. The idea of sending "Valentines" may be connected with an old belief that birds were supposed to pair on that date, or be a survival of the Roman Lupercalia festival held in mid-February. Valentine is the patron saint of beekeepers, engaged couples and the young.



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
What part of the story did you like?
What part of the story didn't you like?
Which picture did you like?
- ③ The children can make some Valentine cards using the templates found in the Valentines Day section on iChild.



Please remember to recycle this activity

St. Valentine



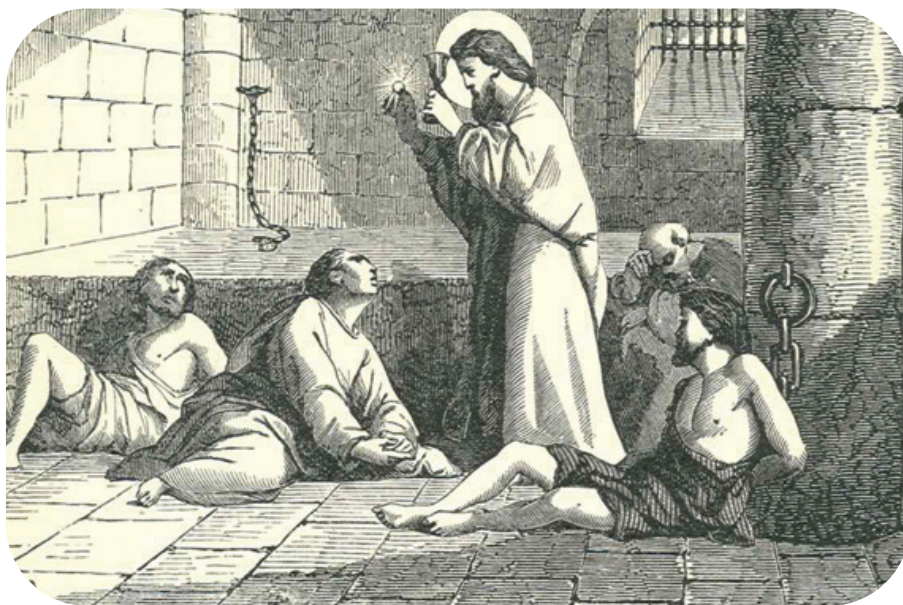
The Roman Emperor Claudius II was fighting many wars. He wanted a strong army, but many men did not want to be soldiers. Claudius thought the men wanted to stay home to be with their wives and children instead of leaving to fight wars.



Claudius thought of an awful solution to his problem. He decided to cancel all marriages! No one in all of Rome could get married. Claudius thought that if the men couldn't get married, the men would ignore the women and want to be soldiers.



Valentine, who was a priest, believed that people needed to get married. He thought that if they were not married, they would be tempted to sin by living together without being married.



So he secretly and illegally married couples anyway! He performed the weddings in secret places, so the Roman soldiers would not find out. But they did find out. Valentine was arrested and brought before the Emperor.

The Emperor thought Valentine was a well spoken and wise young man, and encouraged him to stop being a Christian and become a loyal Roman.

Valentine would not deny his beliefs, and he refused. He was sent to prison until he could be executed.



While he was in prison, he sent out letters to his friends and asked to be prayed for by writing Remember your Valentine.

Valentine was killed on the 14th or the 24th of February in the year 269 or 270. We celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th in honour of St. Valentine.