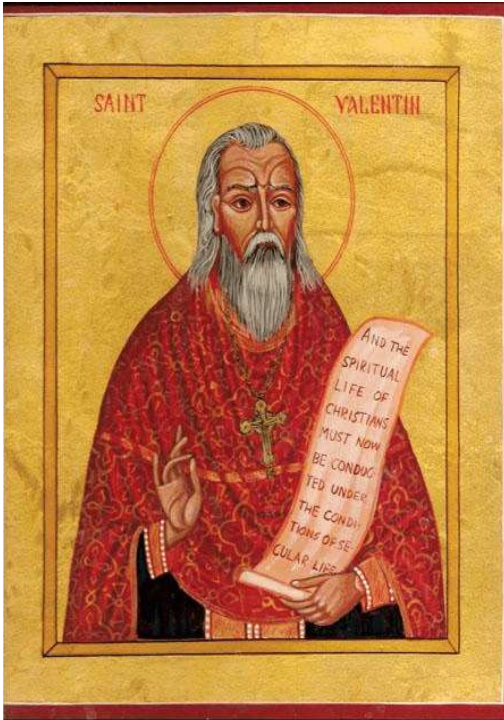


Love is in the air.....St.Valentine's Day

This Sunday, February 14th is as everyone knows the Feast of **St Valentine** but what do we know about him? Why do we celebrate him and why is he associated with love? 💕

St Valentine lived a very long time ago during the days of the Roman Empire. We don't know exactly what he looked like, but maybe something like this picture here.



The Roman Emperor at the time was Claudius II and he wanted a big army to fight for him in different countries. A lot of the soldiers did not want to go away to fight and leave their wives and children behind, so Claudius made a law that young men could not get married and have families. He was hoping that this would mean that all the young men would want to go away to fight.

Valentine, on the other hand knew that lots of the young men were in love and wanted to get married and as he was a priest it was his job to marry them! So even though there was a law, he organised the wedding ceremonies, many of them at night and in secret so that soldiers could marry their sweethearts. 💕 Unfortunately though for Valentine he was caught and brought before the Emperor who demanded he stop the marriages

AND stop being a Christian but instead worship the Roman Gods. When Valentine said he couldn't do that, the Emperor had him thrown into prison.

When the people heard that Valentine was in prison they were upset. They threw flowers and notes in at his prison window to let him know that they were thinking of him and praying for him. In prison, the daughter of one of the prison guards was kind to him, spending time talking to him, and they became friends. The story goes that the daughter was blind and that Valentine used the healing power he got from God to cure her blindness. On the day Valentine was put to death by the Emperor, he sent her a letter thanking her for her kindness. He signed it 'From your Valentine' and put the date on it: 14th February!

Now every year on St Valentine's Day people send cards and sometimes presents too to people they love. If they wish it to be a secret, they sometimes just sign the card: 'From your Valentine'.

💕 How could you show the important people in your life, that you love them? 💕