

Who was Saint Valentine?

The fourteenth of February is known as St. Valentine's Day. St Valentine was a Christian priest who lived in Rome in the third century A.D. Rome was ruled by the Emperor Claudius (or Cruel Claudius). The emperor did not like Christians or the God that they believed in. He wanted Romans to worship gods like Jupiter and Mercury. He persecuted Christians. Claudius had a big problem! The Romans were fighting wars all over the area and Claudius needed many soldiers to fight in them. But the Roman soldiers were reluctant to go to war because they didn't want to leave their wives and sweethearts. So Claudius decided to ban men and women from getting married or even engaged.

Valentine thought this was wrong so when a young couple came to his church to ask to be married, he agreed but asked them to keep it a secret.

Inevitably, the news slipped out and soon many young couples were coming to Valentine's church to ask to be married. Unfortunately the Emperor Claudius found out! He sent soldiers to arrest Valentine and take him to prison. In prison, Valentine made friends with a guard called Asterius. Asterius had adopted a little blind girl and when Valentine prayed to God, she was miraculously cured. Again, news spread and people began to visit Valentine in prison to be baptised into the Christian faith. Again Claudius found out and was so enraged that he decided to have Valentine executed.

This happened on 14th February, 270 AD.

Because of his kind and compassionate deeds, Valentine was eventually canonised and has since been known as Saint Valentine.

Questions:

1. Who ruled Rome in 270 A.D?
2. Name two Roman gods.
3. Why were soldiers reluctant to go to war?
4. What did Saint Valentine ask the first couple to do?
5. What was the name of the prison guard who became Saint Valentine's friend?
6. How did Saint Valentine help the prison guard?
7. If Saint Valentine was 56 when he died, in what year was he born?
8. Saint Valentine died in 270 A.D. Do you know what A.D. means?
9. What year would be 300 years before 270 A.D.
10. Why was Claudius so angry with Saint Valentine?

Answers:

1. Who ruled Rome in 270 A.D?

Emperor Claudius

2. Name two Roman gods.

Jupiter and Mercury

3. Why were soldiers reluctant to go to war?

They didn't want to leave their wives and sweethearts.

4. What did Saint Valentine ask the first couple to do?

To keep it a secret that he had married them.

5. What was the name of the prison guard who became Saint Valentine's friend?

Asterius

6. How did Saint Valentine help the prison guard?

He cured his blind daughter.

7. If Saint Valentine was 56 when he died, in what year was he born?

214 A.D.

8. Saint Valentine died in 270 A.D. Do you know what A.D. means?

Anno Domino

9. What year would be 300 years before 270 A.D.

30 B.C.

10. Why was Claudius so angry with Saint Valentine?

Because he helped couples to marry and he Baptised people into the Christian faith.