## Celebrating





2014

Honouring marriage as life-long romantic love

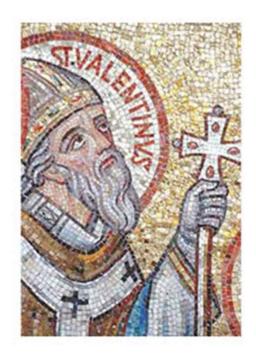




St Valentine was a priest in Rome at the time of Emperor Claudius II. Urgent to recruit soldiers for his armies, Claudius decreed that all weddings be suspended so as to encourage more single, childless men to serve in combat. Seeing the anguish of the young couples to marry, St Valentine performed secret weddings in defiance of the Emperor.

He was eventually arrested and imprisoned. While awaiting execution, St Valentine restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter. On the eve of his death, he is reported to have penned a farewell note to the young girl signing it,







## Saint alentine

He was beheaded on February 14, 269 AD and buried on the Flaminian Way where archaeologists have unearthed a catacomb and an ancient church dedicated in his name. He is the Patron Saint of engaged couples, happy marriages, love and lovers.

ref: www.catholic.org/saints

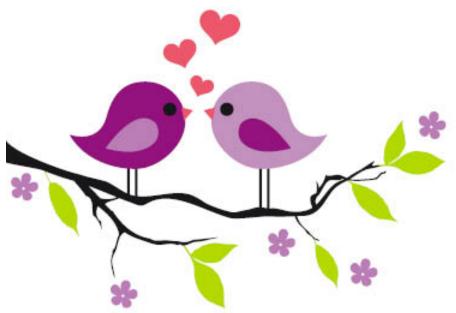




We celebrate today not only the love shared by those couples among us, but also the love of the Great Lover, Jesus. Christ, our bridegroom, invites us to join him in an everlasting covenant; an eternal love union that is reflected in the love of each and every dedicated married couple.



God calls every married couple to deepen their faith and their intimacy. Pick up your copy of *Growing in Love* in the Church foyer





Wishing our faithful married couples a joyful St Valentine's Day.
Thank you for your example of love.

