



Valentine's
Day

It was first
established in

496AD

In memory of a
martyr called St
Valentine, more
specifically St
Valentine of Rome.



There are different stories which are widely believed to be at the origin of the love and romance themes that accompany the day...



But the most widely
believed
documented story
was that of
forbidden
marriage...



In the time of
Emperor Claudius
II, a time of battle
and conquering...





It was believed that
married men made
for poor soldiers.



Marriage is
banned!

So by order of the
Roman Emperor, no
young men were
allowed to be
married.

The Bishop Valentine however,
performed secret marriages for
young soldiers and their loves
allowing them to be married
without the knowledge of the
Emperor.





Bring me
Valentine!

But the Emperor
Claudius found out
about the secret
marriages and he
ordered the Roman
guards to bring the
Bishop Valentine to
him.

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



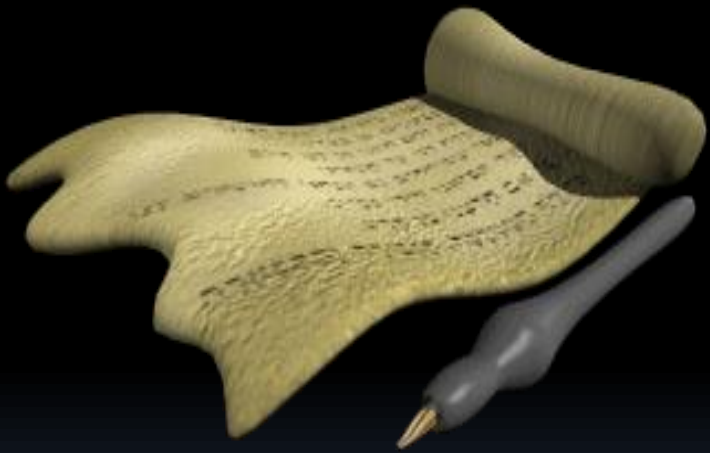


Valentine would not deny his beliefs, and he refused. He was sent to prison until he could be executed.

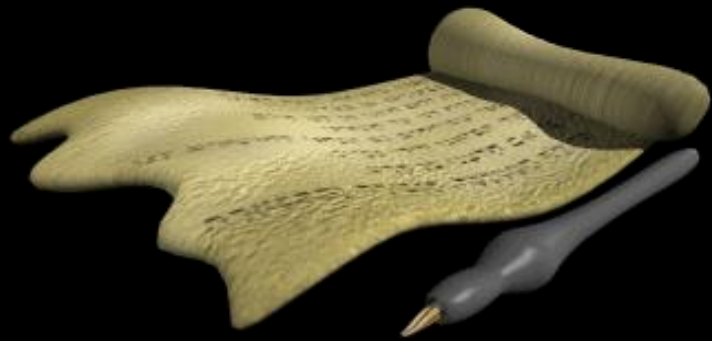


While he was imprisoned it is said that Valentine prayed to God that the jailor's daughter who was blind, would have her sight restored.

Valentine's love
had grown for this
girl, and when his
prayers were
answered, he
wrote a note to
her, signing it...



*From your
Valentine*



This may have been the very first Valentine's day card that began the widely spread tradition of sending Valentine's cards on Valentine's day.



Valentine was later killed for his deeds. But as a result of his refusal to betray his God, hundreds of years later in 496AD, the Pope declared that we should remember him every February 14th as Saint Valentine, the Saint of Love.



St Valentine's day in the 21st century is becoming increasingly commercialised, with people spending hundreds of pounds on cards, flowers, expensive gifts, food and drink.





However, at its very origins remain the themes of love and affection.

Share the love today by telling a family member or best friend that you love them. Have a "lovely" day.