

THE LEGEND OF SAINT VALENTINE

Read the text and complete the gaps with the words in the box.

- daughter
- death
- priest
- prison
- married
- gifts
- orders
- wedding
- ruler
- fighters

Saint Valentine was a Christian 1) _____ who lived in Rome about 1,700 years ago. The 2) _____ of Rome at that time was Emperor Claudius II, who decided that keeping men single would make them more likely to join his army and to be better 3) _____. He made a law that said no young men would be allowed to get 4) _____. In fact, he said that any priest caught performing a 5) _____ would be put to death!

According to the legend, Saint Valentine disagreed with the emperor's 6) _____, so he started performing secret weddings. He knew there was a chance of being caught, but he did it anyway. However, Claudius found out what he was doing and had him thrown into 7) _____. Many of the young couples he married came to the prison to thank him for what he had done. They gave him flowers and notes, and they promised that they would always remember him.

In prison, Saint Valentine fell in love with the 8) _____ of one of the guards. She visited him as often as she could, and they wrote each other notes on the days that she couldn't visit. Emperor Claudius ordered Saint Valentine be put to 9) _____ on 14th February, and on that day, he left one last note for the guard's daughter. At the bottom, he signed it, "from your Valentine." Today we celebrate Valentine's Day by giving our 'Valentine' – the person we love – cards, flowers and 10) _____ to remember Saint Valentine and to remember the importance of true love.