

The History of Valentine's

The history of Valentine's Day and its patron Saint is shrouded in mystery, but we do know that February has long been a month of romance.

The Catholic Church recognises at least 3 different Saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend suggests that Valentine was a priest serving under Emperor Claudius II in Rome during the 3rd Century. Claudius II had decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and children, and so outlawed marriage for all young men. In defiance, Valentine continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. On discovery of Valentine's actions, Claudius II ordered his death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for helping Christians to escape the wrath of the Romans.

Another is that Valentine sent the first "Valentine" greeting to the daughter of his gaoler, whom he had fallen in love with whilst in prison. Before his death it's alleged that he wrote a letter to her signing it "from your Valentine".

By the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular Saints in England and France. Some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death, circa 270AD. Others claim that the Christian Church may have tried to "Christianise" the pagan celebrations of the fertility festival, Lupercalia, dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture and to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was considered a time of purification.

By circa 498 AD, Pope Gelasius had declared February 14th St Valentine's Day.

During the Middle Ages, in France and England it was believed that February 14th was the beginning of the birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February, Valentine's Day, should be a day for romance. By the 17th Century Valentine's Day was being celebrated in Great Britain.

History.com

Flower

Advice

- ★ Re-cut all the stems on an angle with a sharp knife or scissors, removing 2-3cm of stem
- ★ Remove any leaves that will be under the water level
- ★ Arrange your flowers and place the vase away from direct sunlight, radiators, draughts and your fruit bowl
- ★ The cooler the room the longer your flowers will last
- ★ Either change your water every few days or top up the level with fresh and re-cut your stems on an angle
- ★ Change the water at least once a week

Most of all,
enjoy your flowers

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