

# Saint Valentine

A Saint Valentine's Day Poem , by William Shakespeare



The moon shines bright:  
In such a night like this,  
When the sweet wind did gently  
Kiss the trees and they did make  
no noise, in such a night methinks  
he did steal swift to mount  
the wall and sighed his soul  
towards her father's tent,  
where she lay that night.

How sweet the moonlight sleeps  
upon this bank! Here come and  
sit, and let the sounds of music  
creep in our ears: soft stillness  
and the night become the touches  
of sweet harmony.

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# Saint Valentine

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Saint Valentine (also Valentinus) refers to one of several martyred saints of ancient Rome. The feast of Saint Valentine was formerly celebrated on February 14 by the Roman Catholic Church until a revised calendar was issued in 1969, pursuant to the Second Vatican Council. His feast day is July 30 in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

His birth date and birthplace are unknown. Valentine's name does not occur in the earliest list of Roman martyrs, which was compiled by the Chronographer of 354. The feast of St. Valentine was first decreed in 496 by Pope Gelasius I, who included Valentine among those "... whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God." As Gelasius implied, nothing is known about the lives of any of these martyrs. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the saint whose feast was celebrated on the day now known as St. Valentine's Day was possibly one of three martyred men named Valentinus who lived in the late third century, during the reign of Emperor Claudius II (died 270):

- \* A priest in Rome
- \* A bishop of Interamna (modern Terni)
- \* A martyr in the Roman province of Africa.

Various dates are given for their martyrdoms: 269, 270, or 273. The name was a popular one in late antiquity and is derived from valens,(worthy). Several emperors and a pope bore the name, not to mention a powerful gnostic teacher of the second century, Valentinus, for a time drawing a threateningly large following.

The theory that the creation of the feast for such dimly conceived figures may have been an attempt to supersede the pagan holiday of Lupercalia that was still being celebrated in fifth-century Rome, on February 15 is now discredited.

Many of the current legends that characterise Saint Valentine were invented in the fourteenth century in England, notably by Geoffrey Chaucer and his circle, when the feast day of February 14 first became associated with romantic love.

Neil adds – The oddity of Saint Valentine being associated with the pink hearts and gifts of flowers is astonishing, but quite in line with for example, how the general celebration of Christmas has become so removed from the original meaning and purpose. (Don't forget, girls! 2008 is a Leap Year and on Friday 29th February, you may pop the question to the man of your choice!!!)

