

# Who Was Saint Valentine?

11 One of the most popular theories behind the origin of St.  
19 Valentine's Day comes from Saint Valentine who lived  
29 in Rome nearly 2000 years ago. At the time, the  
37 emperor of Rome was Claudius II. Claudius believed  
46 that soldiers in the Roman army performed better if  
54 they weren't married. Therefore, Claudius passed a law  
60 which forbade any soldier from marrying.

67 Saint Valentine disagreed and started marrying soldiers  
77 and their loved ones in secret. When Claudius found out,  
86 he arrested Saint Valentine and demanded that he stop  
93 what he was doing. Saint Valentine refused.

103 It is said that on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Saint Valentine wrote  
110 his last letter and signed it 'your  
115 Valentine' which has become a  
120 popular way to sign cards  
124 on St. Valentine's Day.



# Quick Questions



1. Why did Claudius II have Saint Valentine arrested?

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2. Tick the best definition for the word **forbade**.

- ☐ to ask someone to be bad  
☐ to demand that someone take a bath  
☐ to refuse to allow something  
☐ to give something away



3. Compare Claudius II with Saint Valentine.

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4. How do you think Saint Valentine felt when he heard about Claudius's new law? Explain your answer.

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# Answers



1. Why did Claudius II have Saint Valentine arrested?

**Claudius II had Saint Valentine arrested because he married soldiers even though it was against the law.**



2. Tick the best definition for the word **forbade**.

- ☐ to ask someone to be bad
- ☐ to demand that someone take a bath
- ☒ **to refuse to allow something**
- ☐ to give something away



3. Compare Claudius II with Saint Valentine.

**Accept an appropriate comparison, such as: Saint Valentine was kind-hearted and wanted to help people to get married whereas Claudius II was only interested in people being successful soldiers and was cruel when he banned soldiers from getting married.**



4. How do you think Saint Valentine felt when he heard about Claudius's new law? Explain your answer.

**Accept any sensible answer, such as: I think that Saint Valentine felt enraged that Claudius had put that law in place because he started working in secret to allow soldiers to get married even though this was breaking the law.**