

St. Valentine – Prayer Service

The feast is worth celebrating as it reminds students that all love is a reflection of God's love for us. St. Valentine was a bishop in the early church. He performed Christian marriages for young couples. There was a prohibition on all marriages at the time except those recognised by the state. Valentine was jailed. While in jail, he is believed to have cured the jailer's daughter of blindness. Just before he died he wrote her a letter which he signed "Your Valentine" Because of this he has become the patron saint of love.

{Prior to the Prayer Service: invite the children to make a Valentine card for a parent or grandparent - these can be used at the service.}

Sacred Space:

A cloth, candle, taper, matches, bible and the Valentine cards the children have made for parents, grandparents.

Opening Prayer:

God of love, you give us St. Valentine as an example of love. As we gather to celebrate the feast of this loving and caring saint we ask you to bless our friendships. May the love and affection we share with each other, always come from a sense of care and respect. May we always follow the example of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

Reading: 1John 4:7-12

Gospel: John 3:16-17

REFLECTION

Student 1:

Father, you have loved us from eternity without conditions. Whether we are big or small, rich or poor, intelligent or not, no matter what language we speak, no matter what country we are from – it makes no difference to you.

Student 2:

Help us to love and respect each other always.

Student 3:

Help us to focus on the positive, to see what is good in the people we meet.

Student 4:

Help us to grow in understanding and respect for others.

Student 5:

Help us to encourage the goodness and the giftedness of others.

Student 6:

Lord, as we increase our ability to love as Jesus did, help us to build your kingdom here on earth.

A prayer of blessing on the Valentine cards

Generous and loving God, you love us as only a parent can -
without conditions, without limits.

You fill us with your grace and love.

Bless the people we made these cards for.

May these cards bring joy and happiness to those who receive them.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen

Closing Prayer:

God, source of life and love,
we ask you to bless our families and friends.

Help us to see that the love we experience from others
is only a reflection of your great love for us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn