

# Valentines Day

The purpose of the tutor reflections are to

1. Enable staff and students to reflect upon the schools vision and values.
2. Provide staff and students with an opportunity to explore the impact of faith and the teachings of Jesus in today's world.

(SIAMS Framework Nov 2017)



# Valentines Day

St Valentines Day is celebrated every year on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

It is day when people show their affection for another person or people by sending cards, flowers or chocolates with messages of love.



# Valentines Day

The day gets its name from a famous saint, but there are several stories of who he was.

The popular belief about St Valentine is that he was a priest from Rome in the third century AD.

Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage because he thought married men were bad soldiers.



# Valentines Day

Valentine felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret.

When Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown in jail and sentenced to death.

There, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on 14 February he sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine".



# Valentines Day

Having a particular Valentine's Day is old tradition, the first Valentine's Day was in the year 496!

It is thought by some to have originated from a Roman festival called Lupercalia in the middle of February.

It's thought that as part of the celebrations, boys drew names of girls from a box. They would be paired for the duration of the festival and sometimes even get married.



# Valentines Day

Later on, the church wanted to turn this festival into a Christian celebration and decided to use it to remember St Valentine too.

Gradually, St Valentine's name started to be used by people to express their feelings to those they loved.



*love*



Word

# Valentines Day

What words come to mind when you hear the word love?

If the legends about St Valentine are to be believed then Valentines Day may be more about suffering and sacrifice than chocolates and cards.



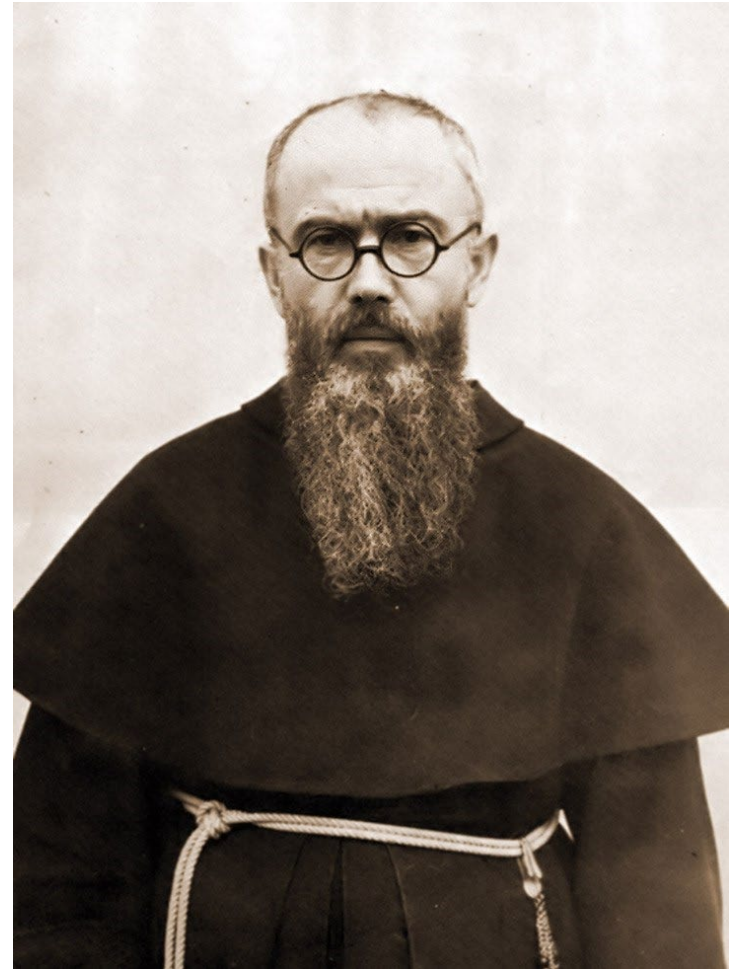
St. Christopher's  
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# Valentines Day

Maximilian Kolbe was a priest in Poland during the Second World War. He provided shelter to refugees who were wanted by the Nazis, including 2,000 Jews who hid in his friary.

In 1941, the German authorities shut down the friary and the Gestapo arrested Kolbe and sent him to the Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz.





# Valentines Day

At the camp, prisoners were housed in large, wooden bunkers. There was a rule at Auschwitz that if one man escaped from the camp, ten men from his bunker would be killed in retaliation.

In July 1941, a man from Kolbe's bunker was thought to have escaped.

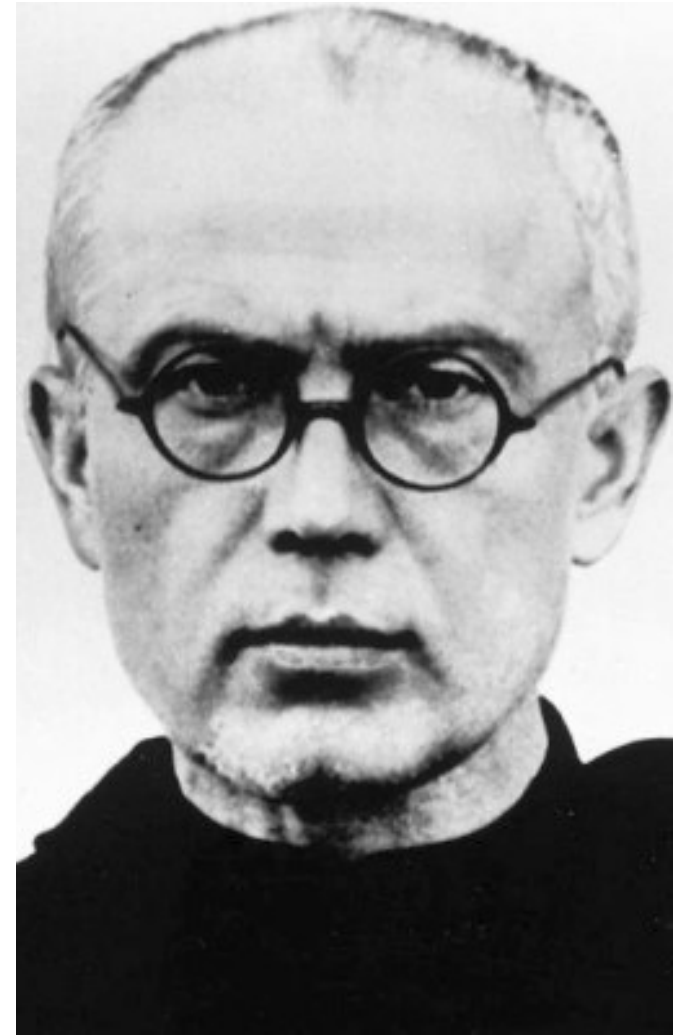


# Valentines Day

Ten men from the bunker were selected to be starved to death, but Kolbe was not one of them.

One man selected, Franciszek Gajowniczek, cried out in anguish about his wife and children.

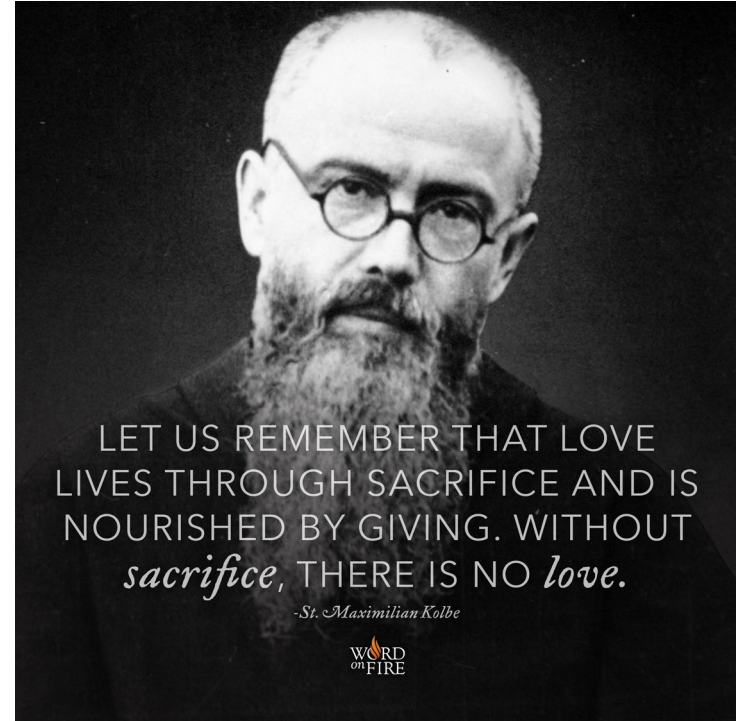
When Kolbe heard this desperate cry, he stepped forward and offered to take his place.



# Valentines Day

The camp commandant agreed to let Kolbe take the other man's place. Kolbe had volunteered to sacrifice his life so that a man whom he did not know could live.

Kolbe was put in a cell with the other nine men to starve to death. During this time, he lifted their spirits with songs and prayers. He was the last to die, on 14 August 1941.



# Valentines Day

Perhaps Valentines day is an opportunity not just to show affection for the people we like but to choose to make sacrifices for those we may not know.

How could you practice this kind of love today?

**JOHN 15:13**

**<sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.**



# Valentines Day

Prayer Spaces in Schools enable students, of all faiths and none, to explore current affairs, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way.

Ifracombe Academy Prayer Space is at the **top of the art block** and is open to students every lunch time.



*The focus this week will be 'Love.'*



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