

FEAST OF ST LUCY

DECEMBER 13

- This beloved saint was born in 283 AD and lived in Syracuse, Sicily. She was the daughter of rich parents and her father died when she was very young.
- She was a Christian and wanted to spend her life spreading the Good News, so she secretly promised Jesus that she would never marry.
- Her mother, Eutychia, begged her to marry a young pagan named Paschasius, whom she had chosen for Lucy. But, for three years, Lucy would not agree.
- Lucy then thought of a plan to win her mother over. Her mother was often sick and Lucy convinced her to go to the shrine of St Agatha and pray for her recovery.
- When God heard their prayers and cured her mother, Lucy told her of her promise not to get married. Her grateful mother finally agreed.
- Paschasius was furious at losing his bride-to-be. In his bitter anger, he accused her of being a Christian. He threatened her with the frightening torture of being blinded.
- But Lucy was even willing to lose both her eyes rather than belong to anyone but Jesus. And that is just what happened. Many statues show St Lucy holding her lovely eyes in the palm of her hand.
- Jesus rewarded Lucy for her heroic love. He worked a miracle and gave her back her eyes, more beautiful than ever.
- Paschasius tried lots of things to get Lucy to turn her back on Jesus. Eventually, she was sentenced to death for being a Christian. She was surrounded with bundles of wood which they set on fire, but the fire went out. In the end, she was killed and became a martyr in the year 304.
- The name, Lucy, means Light. Many people pray to St Lucy when they have eye problems.
- The names, Lucy, Lucia, Lucette, and Dawn all come from the Latin word, 'lux', which means light.
- St Lucy's day is still celebrated in many parts of the world. In Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Norway, it is the job of the eldest child to dress up and play the part of St Lucy in a procession, where she will wear a crown of candles on her head.
- St Lucy always kept the light of Christ alive.

