



SAINT VALENTINE

In an unassuming church in Dublin lies the reputed remains of someone pretty unexpected:

Saint Valentine.

The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Whitefriar Street, houses the relics, which made their way over from Rome in the 19th century.

The Shrine

The Shrine to St Valentine is found on the right hand side of the church as one enters the main body of the church. The casket sits beneath the marble altar in a niche which is protected by an ornate iron and glass gate. Above the altar stands the life-sized statue of the saint set into a marble mosaic alcove. The saint is also barefoot. The casket is wooden and on top bears the papal coat of arms of Gregory XVI along with two large gold plates which have the letter of Cardinal Odescalchi inscribed in English upon them. Between these two plates and beneath the papal crest is a smaller plate with the inscription: This shrine contains the sacred body of Saint Valentinus the Martyr, together with a small vessel tinged with his blood.

Each year ahead of February 14, a to-be-wed couple is blessed in front of the shrine. The event is run by Catholic marriage advice and counselling agency Accord

