

Key Stage Two

Saint Lucy was the child of wealthy parents. Her father died when she was still a baby, and she was raised by her mother Eutychia, a pious and devoted Christian. They lived in the town of Syracuse in Sicily, in the early fourth century, at the time of the persecutions of Diocletian, a Roman emperor. Diocletian was a pagan and he made it against the law for anyone to be Christian.

When Lucy was still a young girl, she made a vow that she would remain unmarried, and would serve God all her life. She kept this vow a secret, so as not to draw any attention to herself. Lucy helped other Christians who were hiding away in tunnels underneath the city where she lived. Because it was so dark in the tunnels where they were hiding and her hands were full of food and water, Lucy made a wreath of candles to wear on her head so that she could find her way.

When she was older, her mother, who did not know of her vow, promised a rich young man of Syracuse that Lucy would marry him. It was a common thing for parents to arrange their children's marriages, so the young man and Lucy's mother were quite sure that this would be acceptable to Lucy.

Lucy tried several times to persuade her mother that she did not want to marry anyone, and avoided meeting the young man as often as she could. Both her mother and the young man were angry with her, but she kept her secret and didn't tell them of her vow. She prayed, asking God for help.

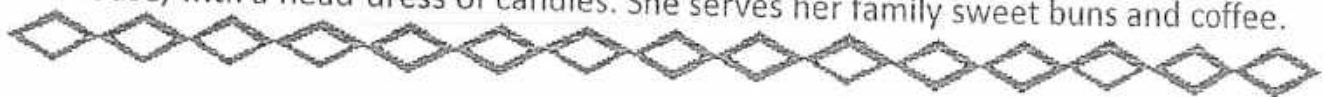
Eutychia became ill with an illness that made her very weak. Lucy reminded her mother of the story in the Gospels of the woman who was cured by touching Christ's cloak. She suggested that they make a pilgrimage to the tomb of Saint Agatha to pray for healing. While at the tomb, Eutychia was miraculously healed. Saint Agatha appeared to Lucy in a dream and told her that she would be martyred for Christ's sake. Lucy told her mother of her vow and how she had prayed for some way to change her mother's mind. Grateful for healing, Eutychia allowed Lucy to follow her vow.

Angered by this change in plans, the rich young suitor denounced Lucy to the governor of the region as a Christian. When she was found guilty, a judge ordered that Lucy be sold into slavery. That, he thought, would change her mind about being a Christian.

Soldiers came to take her away, but no matter how hard they tried, Lucy stood as if rooted to the ground. The soldiers were frightened by this, a small young woman as un-moveable as a mountain. They demanded to know why she could not be moved and why she was not harmed, and she replied that the power of the Lord Jesus Christ protected her. Finally, they used a sword to kill her.

Saint Lucy was welcomed into Heaven by Jesus, whom she had loved so much that she had died for Him. Saint Lucy is the patron saint of Sweden, because it said that she saved the country from a famine.

In Sweden, on her feast day, the youngest girl of the household makes a procession around the house, with a head-dress of candles. She serves her family sweet buns and coffee.



Early Years and KS1

Saint Lucy lived in Sicily about 300 years after Jesus was born. Her parents were Christians, even though many people in the world at that time were pagans, meaning they worshipped other gods. The ruler of the country was a pagan and he made it against the law for anyone to be Christian. But Lucy's parents loved Jesus very much, so they were Christians and they taught Lucy about Christ too. She grew up loving Jesus and wanting to give her whole life to Him.

When she was growing up, Lucy helped other Christians who were hiding away in tunnels underneath the city where she lived. Because it was so dark in the tunnels where they were hiding and her hands were full of food and water, Lucy made a wreath of candles to wear on her head so that she could find her way.

Lucy's mother wanted Lucy to marry a rich young man, even though he wasn't a Christian. Lucy didn't want to marry at all, and prayed to God for some way to persuade her mother that she didn't have to marry him. Lucy's mother became ill, and they both went to the tomb of Saint Agatha to pray to make her better. When Lucy's mother was miraculously healed, Lucy told her mother about how she had asked God for help so that she wouldn't have to marry. Lucy's mother changed her mind, and told Lucy that she didn't have to marry the rich young man. Lucy was very happy.

But the rich young man was not happy. He still wanted to marry Lucy, and he was very angry when she wouldn't marry him. He wanted to punish Lucy, so he told the ruler of the country that Lucy was a Christian. This was true, but it was also against the law.

Soldiers came to take Lucy away and sell her into slavery for being a Christian, but God protected her. No matter how many men tried to lift her, she could not be moved.

She told the soldiers that she was protected by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that she wanted to serve God.

Finally they took her to prison, where it was very cold, damp and uncomfortable. She died in prison, and went to Heaven. Jesus welcomed her and now we are able to ask her to pray for us.

