

salvos

magazine

Valentine's Day

Celebrating love, family,
friends and community



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FEATURE

'Palentine's'
Day is
coming

FAITH TALK

Be my
Valentine?

MY STORY

Mutual
support in
the ride of life

**“Walking with a friend
in the dark is better than
walking alone in the light.”**

– Helen Keller





The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice



The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.

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Secretary for Communications and Editor-In-Chief

Colonel Rodney Walters

Publications Manager Cheryl Tinker

Editor Simone Worthing

Graphic Designer Ryan Harrison

Enquiry email publications@salvationarmy.org.au

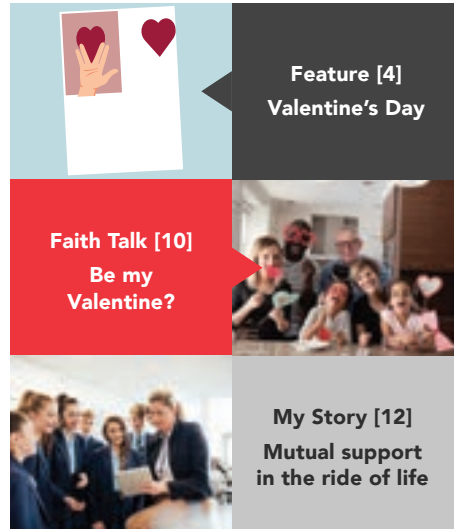
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Celebrating love

Traditionally, Valentine's Day celebrates romantic love and is a time when couples plan something special together or buy gifts for each other. Flowers or chocolates anyone?

As important as this is, all humans are social beings designed for connection, community and relationships. Expressing love and care to others does not have to be limited to romantic partners, and many of us have a range of different kinds of friendships in our lives.

Close friends and family top the list for most, but other important relationships include those with groups we belong to, neighbours, colleagues and acquaintances. Even a smile from a fellow shopper, walker or commuter can lift our sense of community and hope.

In this edition, a handful of people write about their plans and focus for Valentine's Day, and how they'll keep the costs down too. We also feature a low-cost cookbook, just for special-occasion treats.

Enjoy your Valentine's Day celebrations, if you celebrate, and, as Mal Davies writes in Faith Talk, celebrate love itself and the many forms and shapes it takes, including God's love for us!

Simone Worthing **Editor**

Valentine's Day

Celebrating romance, family, friends and community

The rising cost of living means Sophie and her partner Dys won't spend a lot on celebrating Valentine's Day – but that doesn't mean they'll enjoy it less.

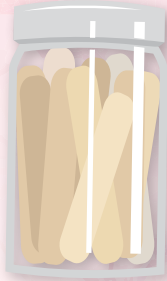
Have you and your partner always celebrated Valentine's Day?

For us, Valentine's Day isn't as big a celebration as a birthday, anniversary or Christmas, but we still like to acknowledge our love for each other on the day. Dys often buys me a bunch of flowers, a chocolate bar and a nice card. Depending on what year it was, whether we were struggling uni students or had full-time jobs, the flowers varied from picked from his mum's garden to store-bought – both equally beautiful.

I have the tendency to get a bit more creative and over the years I've made Dys many gifts. One year I filled a glass jar full of popsicle sticks that had different activities/date ideas written on them, for us to choose from for the year ahead. Another year I made him a scrapbook of some of our favourite adventures together.

How has the rising cost of living affected the way you plan to celebrate it this year?

We won't likely go out to a fancy restaurant for dinner this year; instead, I'll be picking our top three pictures from our



last holiday together and have them framed to hang in our new house! We might order some takeaway and watch a rom com on the couch.

Laurie and Simone have celebrated Valentine's Day for more than 40 years, a day that has lovely memories for them.

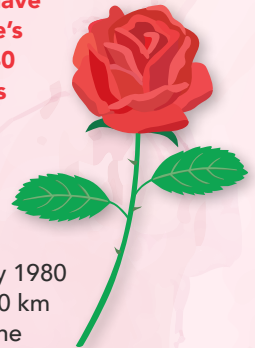
Why is Valentine's Day special to you?

It was Valentine's Day 1980 and Simone came 500 km from Roma to Brisbane to visit me. Well actually, she came because, hooray, this was the day we became engaged! We went to Diamonds International in Edward Street and bought her engagement ring and our wedding rings. We are still wearing the originals 44 years later.

How have you marked the occasion over the years?

This day is special to us. Over the years I have usually given Simone her favourite flower – red roses. We have exchanged gifts, gone out for meals and prepared special meals at home. However, we have become thrifter, and I often buy a single red rose before Valentine's Day.

Simone loves romance and so does this bloke born in a mining city. From very early in our marriage, our aim has been to please each other in ways that bring most joy to them. Year-round Valentine's Day!



Kelly, a mum of two primary school-aged children, sees Valentine's Day as more of a celebration of friendship.

How do you involve your children in Valentine's Day?

I like to make it a friendship day for the kids. As a family we'll make small gifts, like loom band bracelets, for them to give to their best friends.

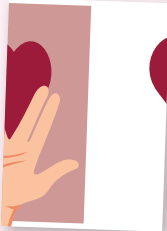
I also do a special little thing for them to enjoy. In the past I've bought chocolate love hearts to put into their lunch boxes and one year I gave them a chocolate rose after school. This year I'm thinking I might make a fun treat for their Valentine's Day lunch – fairy bread with red and pink sprinkles.



For Maia and Mark, the day is very low key.

How do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

We don't really do anything special for Valentine's Day. It's usually a silly card, something to do with Star Trek and being



my 'Number One'. Then we eat Turkish Delight while watching TV.

Helen and Don like to give their neighbours an opportunity to celebrate as a community.

How do you involve everyone, and how do you keep the costs down?

We realised years ago that Valentine's Day could be a difficult day for many, for different reasons. So, we have our special coffee out together before work, and after an early finish, we host a Valentine's Day 'neighbours' barbecue' for those in our little cul-de-sac. We sizzle sausages, scoop ice cream and chat. Cars stay out and the kids play safely in the street. The teenagers have a basketball hoop. The older people have a cuppa in their camping chairs. It's growing each year as other streets want to join.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army services.



Valentine's Day on a budget

Tips for couples, families and friends



- Set and stick to a budget.
- Celebrate at home.
- Get creative with home-made or pre-loved gifts.
- Plan some fun and free activities or events.
- Give the gift of time, or compliments.
- Volunteer together.
- Start a new tradition.
- Raincheck the day to the 15th when everything is on special.

Celebrating friendship

Palentine's Day is coming!



Palentine's Day? Shouldn't that be Valentine's Day?

Well – not necessarily.

According to Wikipedia, "Palentine's day is a global holiday celebrating friendships and every other form of platonic love. It is celebrated annually on February 13, but can be observed on February 14 as well, and complements Valentine's Day, which celebrates romantic love. The term Palentine originates from the combination of the words Pal, which is another word for friend, and Valentine."

So . . . how will we celebrate our pals this February? Those pals who make our life brighter, who don't complain about our singing or the food stains on the carpet, who don't run away when we're in a bad mood. The ones who drop everything to help us move house or enjoy the dinner we've cooked, even when the vegetables are soggy and the meat is burnt. The ones who sit with us when we cry, listen to our stories, defend us when we're wronged and roll around laughing with us when we're feeling crazy. The pals we want to show how much we value them.

Perhaps a hug, flowers from your garden, a silly card, a coffee together, a word of praise or helping them clean the house?

Maybe there is something they love to do that you could do together. Or something you've talked about doing together, and this is the day to finally do it.

However you celebrate Palentine's Day – with one pal or many – this is a great opportunity to show love and appreciation for those who bring us good company, great support and some of our happiest times. – **Fay Foster**

"Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble."

Proverbs chapter 17, verse 17
(The Message Bible translation)



Scan here to read more stories of hope.

Cathryn's new cookbook a special treat

If you're doing any baking for upcoming special events, you might like to consider throwing Major Cathryn Williamson's new cookbook into the mix.

One of The Salvation Army's best-known bakers, Cathryn has released a new cookbook – *Special Occasion Treats*.

This book is the fourth in her successful '2 Thumbs Up' series, the first three being *Brilliant Biscuits*, *Sensational Slices* and *Cakes Loaves and Muffins*.

Proceeds from *Special Occasion Treats* will go towards the work of the Salvos with Ukrainian children, as well as its 'Making it Happen' women's fundraising appeal in the Solomon Islands.



Cathryn, the corps officer (pastor) at Grafton/Maclean Salvos in Northern NSW along with her husband Mark, said putting together this newest edition was a family affair. Her mother contributed the hot cross buns recipe ("because I'm not mucking around with yeast!" laughed Cathryn), and her father designed and printed the book.



The book contains detailed recipes and some quick, easy treats.

"Probably the most involved is the burger cupcake – it looks like a burger," said Cathryn. "The Portuguese egg tarts were difficult. I tried so many different variations to get one that would work."

The upcoming Valentine's Day is also covered – a marble cake with pink, red and white swirls. Or try the piñata biscuits, shaped as stars in the recipe, but easily reshaped into hearts. Or the pink heart variation of the delicious mint patties.

Now that the book has finally been released, Cathryn says she can't rule out doing another.

"The next one might be a kids' cooking book to go along with the Kids in the Kitchen (Salvos cooking program for children). And it will have little Bible devotionals along with the recipes," she said. – **Lauren Martin**

Copies of Special Occasion Treats are \$10. To order, email two.thumbs.up@hotmail.com

Hitting the right note

Salvos partnership brings music tuition to struggling family

A partnership between 2508 Salvos in southern Sydney, the local Salvos Store and a generous music teacher has resulted in a local child accessing piano lessons.

The primary school-aged boy realised his love for music when visiting a friend's home and noticing a keyboard. He started to play and didn't want to leave!

The boy and his sibling are cared for by their grandmother, who relies on Centrelink benefits, so they are financially unable to pay for after-school activities. The family is regularly supported by 2508 Salvos.

KIDS MISS OUT

"One of the disadvantages of living in financial stress is that children often miss out on things that their peers take for granted," said Lauren Martin, Mission Leader of 2508 Salvos, based in Helensburgh. "Things like weekend

sport, swimming lessons, and after-school activities.

“

He started to play and didn't want to leave.

”

"Here in Helensburgh and the surrounding suburbs, we like to support individuals and families holistically, and we work with the local community in caring for each other. With that in mind, I often partner with local businesses to see if they can provide subsidised services for locals in need, with The Salvation Army contributing to some of the cost and the family or individual also contributing, but at a lower amount than the advertised rate.



A Salvation Army partnership is allowing a young boy to pursue his passion for playing the piano.



Helensburgh music tutor Alison Garvie jumped at the chance to help a struggling family with piano tuition.

“When we heard about this boy’s love of music, I approached a local music tutor to see how we could work together to support him.”

HAPPY TO HELP

That music teacher is Alison Garvie, who jumped at the chance to help. “I love to teach, and if there’s an enthusiastic kid out there that wants to learn and can’t afford lessons, I’m happy to help,” she said, adding that the boy is fun and creative and enjoying learning C-intervals and reading music.

“

**It’s something positive
to do with his time.**

”

Lauren spoke to her local Salvos Stores about the potential for sourcing a donated keyboard to assist in his learning. Area Manager Dale Cheetham put a call out throughout the area, and a few

weeks later, a good-quality keyboard and stand was delivered by Salvos Stores truck to the Helensburgh store with a note to say it had come from Nowra Salvos Store on the South Coast, to be used for the mission.

“What a delight it was to deliver that keyboard and stand!” says Lauren. “His grandmother contacted me later in the afternoon to say that the boy had been using it for hours.”

His grandmother says if it weren’t for the Salvos and Alison’s generosity, she would never be able to afford for her grandson to pursue his passion for music. “He’s really getting into it,” she said. “There’s one classical song, and he’s getting really good at it. It’s something positive to do with his time.

“It’s his special thing.”



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Financial Services.

Be my Valentine?

Love is certainly to be celebrated, but what is love?

By Mal Davies

Valentine's Day is an international celebration of love ... and also a brilliant way florists and chocolate sellers can make truckloads of money.

For centuries, the 14th day of February – formerly a Christian feast day honouring St Valentine – has had a romantic theme attached to it and it's become the day we give a card or flowers or present to someone we love. It's also become a popular day to propose marriage to someone or ask someone out on a first date.

GLOBAL TRADITIONS

Around the world there are different traditions for the day (in the Philippines, for example, there are mass wedding ceremonies performed) while some countries have banned it for fear of young people getting too amorous!

In Sidon, Lebanon, Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate the love unique to families, and the day is marked not by

going out on hot dates but by staying home to share a feast as a family.

Which is a good reminder to us that love comes in many forms, not just romantic. The love I feel for my wife is different from the love I have for my brother and different for my football team and different for a good lamb chop! The word 'love' has become a catch-all for anything we like or prefer. Saying, 'I love a cold ginger beer', is very different from saying, 'I love my mum'!

“

**Love comes in many forms,
not just romantic.**

”

A week or so ago in the café at the front of our church, one of the patrons – a member of the local homeless community – said to me: “You people do a fantastic job here. I'm always made to feel so welcome here. I love coming here in the morning to get a coffee and catch up with people. I'd say it's like a second home, but I don't have a home! So, I guess this is as close as I get to what it must feel like to go home.”

That's love! It's not romantic and I didn't buy him flowers or chocolates, but even without saying it specifically he's described a love worth celebrating.





TYPES OF LOVE

Arguably the best-known verse in the Bible, John chapter three, verse 16, begins: “For God so loved the world...”, and there are many verses that say, ‘God is love’ and speak of the love he has for us. One of my favourites is in Romans chapter five where it says, “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (verse 8).

“

This is as close as I get to what it must feel like to go home.

”

So, there are many forms of love to be celebrated. In 1960, CS Lewis released his book called *The Four Loves* in which he explored different types of love. Using the Greek names, he spoke first about ‘storge’, the sort of bond and affection found between family

members. Then he turned to ‘philia’, the sort of love shown in true friendship and when we appreciate someone deeply. Third, he wrote about ‘eros’, the romantic love most praised on Valentine’s Day, and he explored what it is to be ‘in love’ with someone.

His fourth love, however, is the one that most captures my attention. ‘Agape’ is described as a selfless, sacrificial or charitable love, and the type of love modelled by Christ. Lewis considered it the ‘highest form of love’.

This Valentine’s Day by all means celebrate with those you love dearest and nearest, but maybe also celebrate love itself and recognise that love takes many forms and shapes. It can be God sending his own son to save us, or it can be a homeless man saying he feels valued. We all love to be loved!



Scan here to read more stories of hope.

Mutual support in the ride of life

Chaplaincy in a Christian high school

By Lauren

I've been working as a chaplain and teacher, three days a week, for over six years now. The school has students from kindergarten to year 12, but I'm a chaplain just to the high school students. All the teachers at the school are Christians, but not all the students are.

I teach Christian Studies to students in years 7-10, but I also have time set aside for my chaplaincy role. In this role I meet with students one-on-one. Sometimes I set up the appointments, but often the students will come to me or email me and say, "Miss, can I please come and see you?" Sometimes they're referred to us by someone else in the school, too.

“

We are a part of their support crew.

”

We aim to check in with every student in years 7 to 10, asking them how they are and how school life is for them. If they have any faith questions. It's a great chance to get to know students, but also for them to feel like they are seen and cared for. Students often ask to see us to chat about things happening in their world. At times there are tears over life issues, but sometimes they come to share great news.

FAITH QUESTIONS

My role as a chaplain also allows me to help run different activities around the school that bring people together and allow space for students and staff to consider God and faith. We have events around Easter that give students opportunities to ask questions about faith, and then we follow up with them. Some have chosen to become a Christian and others want their questions about God answered. It is such a privilege to have these conversations and to be able to help a young person navigate life and faith.

We also run a weekly lunchtime Christian group that students can choose to come to. We hang out and eat lunch together, play games, have short talks about the Bible and life topics such as relationships. There is then some time for small group discussion where students may lead a group of younger students.





SUPPORT CREW

The chaplaincy team are a vital part of the school! I often tell students that they are a Tour de France rider. For every rider in this race, they need the support of others to get through their journey. These riders have a support vehicle alongside them with supplies and people encouraging them. That support consists of so many people in a school, and we are a part of their support crew too!

The chaplaincy team is growing as the school grows and there is more demand for our work. There are some rough days, but mostly I love it.

We don't always see the impact of what we do, but as I see it, we are playing our part by planting seeds of faith and creating supportive environments. Sometimes the kids are not receptive and that's OK. I do pray that they will see Jesus through my words and actions. When reflecting

on their school journey, many year 12 students say to us, "There was something different about this school and the staff. It's a great place."

“

Sometimes the kids are not receptive and that's OK.

”

And the difference is Jesus. My role is to plant the seeds and pray that God will water them.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army services.

Lemonade Scones



Ingredients

3½ cups self-raising flour, 1 cup thickened cream, 1 cup lemonade, 1 tsp pink food colouring (optional), jam of your choice, whipped cream

Method

- Preheat oven to 200°C, or 180°C in a fan-forced oven.
- Combine flour, cream, lemonade and colouring. Mix until mostly combined.
- Knead gently on floured surface and form gently into round shapes 2.5cm thick.
- Use a 6cm-round cutter to cut scones. Avoid over-handling of dough.
- Place on baking-paper-lined tray, slightly touching.
- Brush tops lightly with milk.
- Bake 15 minutes until golden. Place on rack to cool, covering with a tea towel.
- Serve with jam and whipped cream, optionally with fresh raspberries or strawberries.



Quick quiz

1. In what country is Valentine's Day known as 'Friends Day'?
2. William Shakespeare mentions Valentine's Day in which of his plays?
3. Where is Shakespeare's love story, Romeo and Juliet, set?
4. Cupid has what name in Greek mythology?
5. Which colour of rose signifies friendship and joy?
6. As well as love, what else is St Valentine the patron saint of?

Bible byte

"So encourage each other and build each other up."

1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verse 11a
New Living Translation

Tum-Tum

On which page of this week's *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?



Wordsearch

F F B F P S U X Q D R O S E H A
 Z O E V R D A P J C U C M R G R
 X Q U B A I I I E S V H B I W O
 U A Q R R L E N N T N O E N Q G
 I R A R T U E N N T Q C Z G C F
 Q P G F D E A N D E G O P B A L
 Y V L C F I E R T J R L C T N O
 S Q C O E E A N Y I H A A R D W
 P M H G T L C M T F N T R E L E
 E K E R I Q E T O H M E D A E R
 C K R S S F P B I N Q B U S L S
 I L I E Q S T O R O D L Q U I C
 A O S C U P I D E A N Q S R G Y
 L V H Y D K O E I M T P S E H J
 E E G Z S K V A P N A E P X T M
 L S R O M A N C E F H E A R T N

Words are hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forwards and backwards. Enjoy!

- Affection
- Candlelight
- Card
- Celebrate
- Cherish
- Chocolate
- Cupid
- Diamond
- Dinner
- February
- Flowers
- Fourteenth
- Friend
- Gift
- Heart
- Love
- Poem
- Ring
- Romance
- Rose
- Saint
- Special
- Treasure
- Valentine

HAVE A LAUGH



Why do trees have so many friends?
 They branch out.

My friend lives by a cliff.
 He's always telling me to drop over.

Why can't you be friends
 with a squirrel?
 They drive everyone nuts.

WHO AM I?

**I was born in 1973,
 in Mackay, Qld.**

I am a runner.

**I was the first Australian
 Indigenous person to
 win a Commonwealth
 Games Gold medal.**

**I have been named Young
 Australian of the Year and
 Australian of the Year.**

**In 2000, at the Olympic
 Games in Sydney, I lit
 the Olympic flame.**

Quiz answers: 1. Finland 2. Hamlet 3. Verona, Italy 4. Eros
 5. Yellow 6. Beekeepers
 Who Am I?: I am Cathy Freeman
 Turn-Turn: is hiding behind the trees on page 15.



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