Cecilia

Born:

Died

Feast Day

22 November

Image: Nhayib Manila CC By SA

DERRY DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL CENTRE

Cecilia was born in Rome in the 3rd century AD into a wealthy family. She loved to sing and dance and learnt how to play music and sing to it.

She loved to teach people about faith. She helped anyone in need because she knew that each person was a child of God. She was martyred for her faith as were her husband and brother in law.

Cecilia was buried in the catacomb of St. Callistus, near Rome. At the beginning of the 9th century, Pope Paschal I discovered her incorrupt (undecayed) relics and had them moved to Rome, to a basilica in Trastevere that now bears her name.

She is the patron saint of musicians , poets and hymns She is one of the most revered early Roman martyrs and one of the seven women commemorated in the Canon of the Mass.

Cecilia symbolizes the central role of music in the liturgy. She is frequently depicted playing a viola, a small organ, or other musical instruments.