

## Reflection Tuesday Week 34 St Cecilia – 2022

Devotion to St Cecilia spread far and wide because of the *Passion of Saint Cecilia*, which presents her as a perfect example of a Christian woman embracing virginity and suffering martyrdom for the love of Christ.

As with early martyrs, little is known about Cecilia except her existence and her name. No one knows why she became popular in the middle of the sixth century, 200 years after her death. Her association with music is also a mystery. It may be real, or it may come from the *Passion* of Cecilia singing to God “in her heart” while the musicians were playing on her wedding day. It may come from a linguistic confusion: where the *Passion* describes her being stifled to death *candentibus organis*, “with the pipes glowing red-hot,” this could have been misread as *cantantibus organis*, “with the organ playing.”

The words of Hosea can be found written by God into the heart of St Cecilia: *I will betroth you to myself for ever, betroth you with integrity and justice, with tenderness and love; I will betroth you to myself with faithfulness, and you will come to know the Lord.*

We also seek this close relationship with Jesus, friendship built on and moulded by love. Maybe this is why Cecilia became so popular. She spoke to the deep desire within us to be close to God. Cecilia also speaks to us of being part of God’s major symphony that we call Church together we sing of God in our hearts as part of a symphony that we will only hear in all its richness and wonder when, like Cecilia, we met God face to face. St Cecilia pray for us!

How do you make a bandstand?      You take away their chairs.

What do you call a musical insect?      A hum-bug.

What kind of music do bunnies like?      Hip Hop.