

The Three Saints Brisbane Festival

- held on the first Sunday of May each year



Each year, on the first Sunday of May, Holy Cross Wooloowin hosts the Three Saints Festival. Numerous locals, as well as members of the Italian community and other parishes from all over Brisbane, come along to the festival.

This tradition has been handed down for centuries from the villages of Eastern Sicily, Italy. The festival honours three brother Saints - Sts Filadelfo, Alfio and Cirino – who were martyred for their faith in Lentini, Sicily, Italy, on May 10, 253 AD.

Filadelfo, Alfio and Cirino were fervent Christians who lived during the time when Emperor Licinius ruled. Emperor Licinius wanted to stop the spread of Christianity. He was against anyone who believed in Jesus Christ. So he issued a decree against Christians in every province of the whole Roman Empire. The Emperor ordered his men to find and prosecute all Christians.

Filadelfo, Alfio and Cirino were then reported to the authorities and arrested. Even in the face of severe threats, however, the three brothers always defended their faith in God. They refused to renounce their Christian faith.

The **Three Saints Festival** commences in the morning with the Rosary in Holy Cross Church, followed by Mass in Italian, dedicated to the three saints. There is also a large procession, whereby the statues of the three saints are led through the streets around Holy Cross

Church. There is always plenty of entertainment and Italian food stalls all afternoon and into the night. Delicious Italian delicacies such as arancini, porchetta, roasted chestnuts, granita, cannoli and good Italian coffee are usually for sale.

All are welcome.

For more information, go to *The Three Saints Feast* website:

<http://www.threesaints.org.au/>