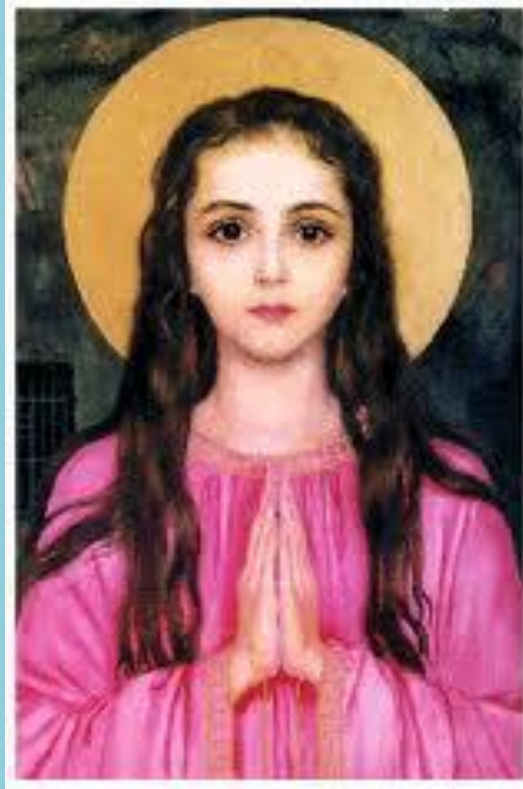


St Philomena



A first class relic of St Philomena, which is generally in the care of the *St Philomena Devotional Centre* in Lisburn, was brought to our parish on 1 September, 2012. Parishioners had an opportunity to venerate the relic and to learn about our patron saint. We look forward to maintaining on-going links with the *St Philomena Devotional Centre*.

Some Facts about St Philomena

Patroness and Protectress of the Living Rosary

Credited with countless miracles and intercessions since discovery of her tomb in the most ancient catacombs of St. Priscilla in Rome in 1802, St. Philomena is prayed to by people of diverse ages, culture and social standing around the world. The young virgin who was martyred at age 13, willingly traded her earthly life for heavenly salvation and continues her work today promoting the virtues of purity and sanctity among the world's youth and bringing the faithful closer to our Blessed Mother and Jesus Christ. It would seem she was held in quiet reserve by God for nearly seventeen centuries and summoned at a time when so much uncertainty and absence of faith abound.

On August 10, 1835, Pauline received a miraculous cure of a severe heart ailment at Saint Philomena's shrine in Mugnano del Cardinale, Italy, during the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Immediately following, she appealed to Pope Gregory XVI to begin an examination for the beatification of "Filumena," daughter of light. And on Jan. 13, 1837, Pope Gregory XVI named St. Philomena Patroness of the Living Rosary, and declared her to be the "Thaumaturga," the "Great Wonder-Worker of the nineteenth century."