

Saint Mark

26 April



About Saint Mark

Saint Mark was not one of Jesus' twelve apostles but was one of the four evangelists. He was a cousin of Saint Barnabas and he accompanied Saint Paul on his first missionary journey and later followed him to Rome.

He was a disciple of Saint Peter and his gospel account is told from Saint Peter's point of view. He is credited with founding the Church in Alexandria. It is said his body may have been stolen from that city in the year 828 and taken to the city of Venice, which adopted him as its patron saint and named its cathedral and square after him.

Saint Mark's symbol is a winged lion, which is an allusion to the desert wilderness with which his gospel account begins.

What can we learn from Saint Mark's life?

Apart from his association with Saints Peter and Paul, we do not know a lot about Saint Mark's life. We do know that he accompanied Saint Paul on some of his journeys and shared in his work of spreading the Gospel.

So it is with us. Our daily living must be a way of being faithful to Christ and His teachings, and a means of evangelising those who have not yet met Christ. That does not mean that we always have to be preaching homilies to people (though that has its time and place), but rather that we are serious about our relationship with God and in turn our neighbour. Saint Mark's Gospel concludes with Jesus saying: 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.' This takes place just before His Ascension. We too, like Saint Mark, have not met Christ physically, but are his disciples in our world here and now. We must be willing to go out into the world and to proclaim Christ's Good News to all the world. In this way, the dismissal formula at the end of Mass becomes a real and tangible aspect of our Catholic faith.

Saint Mark
26 April



Collect

O God, who raised up Saint Mark, your Evangelist,
and endowed him with the grace to preach the Gospel,
grant, we pray,
that we may so profit from his teaching
as to follow faithfully in the footsteps of Christ.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading Mark 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them:
'Go out to the whole world;
proclaim the Good News to all creation.
He who believes and is baptised will be saved;
he who does not believe will be condemned.
These are the signs that will be associated with believers:
in my name they will cast out devils;
they will have the gift of tongues;
they will pick up snakes in their hands,
and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison;
they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them,
was taken up into heaven:
there at the right hand of God he took his place,
while they, going out, preached everywhere,
the Lord working with them
and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

Saint Mark
26 April



Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, says the Lord, alleluia.

A Hymn for Feast of Saint Mark

Go out to ev'ry nation,
proclaiming the Good News
of Jesus Christ, the Saviour:
His Way, you must now choose.
Those who have not been baptized,
Christ we must make them know.
His adopted ones to be,
in His way they must grow.

Saint Mark, a faithful writer,
of the Lord's Word, most true.
His Gospel you have written,
His Gospel we must do.
To Alexandria you
took Christ, His Church and Name,
to help them live His Gospel –
there keep the faith aflame.

Saint Mark, like you, by our lives,
the Gospel must be known
in the darkness of our world,
for Christ is our keystone.
May we learn from what you taught,
and follow Christ each day,
in a way that is faithful,
so from Christ we not stray.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono
Tune: St Theoldulph 76.76D

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Jerusalem Bible Translation of Scripture used in Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III* (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). All rights reserved.

THE COLLECT: *Roman Missal 2010* © International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

REFERENCES: *Sourcebook 2019: © Liturgy Training Publications 2019*
Universalis App: 26 April 2021. All rights reserved.