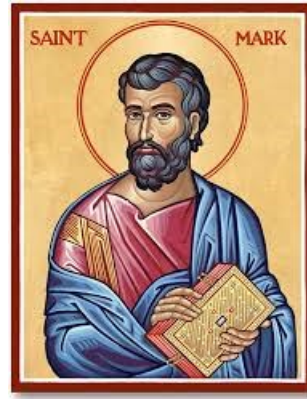


St Mark



Mark was an Evangelist—one of the four men who wrote the Gospels found in the New Testament. It is thought that Mark’s Gospel was written first, and it is the shortest description of Jesus’ life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Mark’s writings helped both Matthew and Luke to write their Gospels.

Mark was not one of the original Apostles, and he probably never knew Jesus. Instead, we believe that he was a member of the first Christian community. In his writings, St. Peter refers to Mark as his “son.” Peter may have used this term to show his love for Mark, or he may have used it because he was the one who baptized Mark. It is believed that Peter was the primary source for Mark’s Gospel.

Mark founded the Church in Egypt and he became Bishop of Alexandria, an important centre of trade and power during ancient times. He died there sometime between the years 68-74 AD, a martyr for his belief in Jesus. while being dragged through the streets.

Mark’s Gospel is a lasting treasure for all believers. He wrote his Gospel to help people know that Jesus was the Son of God who suffered and died to save us from sin and death. When we read Mark’s Gospel, we learn that to be a follower of Jesus we too must be willing to make sacrifices, to “take up our cross and follow” Jesus as he asks us to do. (Mark 8 :34)

The symbol for Mark is a lion with wings. This is because his Gospel begins with the story of John the Baptist, a “voice crying in the wilderness” (Mark 1:3), like the roaring of a lion. Lions are called the Kings of the Jungle. Mark’s Gospel tells us about Jesus’ royalty as the Son of God, a kingship we share through our Baptism.

We celebrate St Mark’s Feast day on April 25th. His life and Gospel remind us to share the Good News about Jesus with others.