

Reflection Monday 2nd week Easter St Mark 2022

St Mark the Evangelist was a cousin of Barnabas and accompanied the apostle Paul on his first missionary journey; later he followed him to Rome. He was a disciple of Peter, and his gospel is told from Peter's point of view. He is credited with founding the Church in Alexandria. His body was stolen from Alexandria in 828 (though some say that the wrong bones were stolen) and taken to Venice, which adopted him as its patron saint.

Listening to Peter speaking about God looking after us and trusting God whatever may befall us are words spoken from experience not from hearsay or even heard from Jesus. Peter has experienced God as a special caring, loving and protective friend. Mark echoes this belief in his Gospel in telling us how the Lord inspired, motivated, encouraged, strengthened and guided the apostles in their preaching of the Good News. All of them speaking from experience. It is hard to think that the Good News can be spread in any other way??

St Mark Malcolm Guite

A wingèd lion, swift, immediate,
Mark is the gospel of the sudden shift.
From first to last, from grand to intimate,
from strength to weakness, and from debt to gift,
from a wide desert's haunted emptiness
to a close city's fervid atmosphere,
from a voice crying in the wilderness
to angels in an empty sepulchre.
And Christ makes the most sudden shift of all;
from swift action as a strong Messiah
casting the very demons back to hell
to slow pain, and death as a pariah.
We see our Saviour's life and death unmade
and flee his tomb dumbfounded and afraid.