

Reflection Tuesday Week 29 St Luke, Evangelist 2022

Saint Luke, Evangelist, was a Greek doctor who converted to Christianity. He was a companion of the Apostle Paul and wrote his Gospel in accordance with Paul's teaching. He also wrote the Acts of the Apostles, narrating the early history of the Church up to Paul's first stay in Rome. As a Greek, he took care to explain to Gentile readers Jewish customs and the meaning of Hebrew words.

It is evident that Luke remembered well the words of Jesus sending out his apostles to teach the Gospel. Having spent some time with Paul, he would have learned the difficulties and the blessings of being a bearer of Good News. He would have learned first-hand the struggles the gentiles had in accepting the Gospel which strengthened his desire to help them understand better Jewish customs and the Jewish faith. Being a doctor, he was more aware and sensitive to the challenges and frailties of human life. This is shown in the way he tells his stories about Jesus and the way Jesus responded to people and situations. He lays special emphasis on women, their role and their significance. He brings out their astuteness in the questions they ask and in their testimonies of faith. Luke also recognised the importance of mercy as a means of healing, as a doctor would. The stories he includes about forgiveness speak so strongly about the sensitivity and the desire of God not only to forgive but to encourage us to forgive with the same tenderness and love. Having been involved with the birth of children, it is no wonder he wanted to tell us about the birth of the Church after the resurrection and challenges us to bring healing and growth to the Church and to deliver the Good News today.