

### Reflection Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Easter St Mark evangelist 2023

Mark 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.

Inspired by both Peter and Paul. Mark was a disciple of the very best educators in the faith. True to the psalmist, his Gospel sung of the love of the Lord for his disciples and for us all. His gospel shows an impatience with Jesus' disciples in failing to understand who Jesus really was. This is not surprising, because Mark understood the true love of Jesus for us, lived in the best way possible by giving his life on the cross and accepting the most terrible suffering and torture in order to set us free from the destructiveness and stranglehold of sin.

St Mark offers us this advice:

*A humble man who lives a spiritual life, when he reads the Holy Scriptures, will relate all things to himself and not to others.*

*Do not become a disciple of one who praises himself, in case you learn pride instead of humility.*

*Unless a man gives himself entirely to the Cross, in a spirit of humility and self-abasement; unless he casts himself down to be trampled underfoot by all and despised, accepting injustice, contempt and mockery; unless he undergoes all these things with joy for the sake of the Lord, not claiming any kind of human reward whatsoever - glory or honour or earthly pleasures - he cannot become a true Christian.*