

Refection Thursday 4th Week Easter St Mark 2024

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.

In addition to writing his Gospel, Saint Mark is credited with founding the Church of Alexandria in Egypt, one of the original Apostolic Sees of Christianity (along with Rome, Antioch, Constantinople, and Jerusalem). The Gospel of Mark is the oldest of the four Gospels and Matthew and Luke based much of their writings on Mark. Together they are called the '*Synoptic Gospels*'.

Mark is the gospel we follow in our Sunday readings currently Cycle B, which doesn't include a Christmas story. What is striking in Mark's Gospel is that Jesus is portrayed as a man of action who hits the ground running, with no time to waste. The gospel reading today proclaims, '*Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation*' reflecting this sense of urgency... An urgency we are all called to act upon now.

- *"Do not become a disciple of one who praises himself, in case you learn pride instead of humility."*
- *"A humble man who lives a spiritual life, when he reads the Holy Scriptures, will relate all things to himself and not to others."*
- *"And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it."*

A man has an urgent need to buy a potato clock.

He was bewildered at first, but he wanted to make his new boss happy, so he went to the local clock shop and asked

"Do you happen to have a potato clock?"

The shopkeeper said he didn't, and told him to try the hardware shop. So, the man walked to the hardware shop and explained to the shopkeeper that he really needed a potato clock, unfortunately, they didn't have one either.

The shopkeeper asks *"Why on earth do you need a potato clock?"*

To which the man replies

"Well, you see I've just accepted a new job and my boss says that I really need to get up at eight o'clock."