

### Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist

Readings of the mass – 1 Peter 5:5-14, Psalm 88/89, Mark 16:15-20

Saint Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, though he accompanied St. Paul in his first missionary journey, is also known as the disciple of St. Peter. So, when we read the Gospel of Mark, we hear it from the point of view of Peter. Jesus shows himself to the eleven and gives them the authority to go in his name, to use his name, and to speak his name. The good news, that is – Jesus freely laid down his life so that He may save those who believe in Him; that when he accepted the death on the cross, God raised him and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth (Phil 2:5-11).

Like Christ we too are called to accept whatever comes our way, to lay down our lives for the sake of others. We who confess that Jesus is Lord must be servants of each other as pride was never the way of Christ. Let us choose the desires of others than our own, being eager to put the preferences of others over our own. This faith enables us to conquer the devil that is prowling around, the faith that leads you to look outside of yourself to those around you. We can find the suffering Christ, more than ever, in those who are suffering around us with this pandemic. If we cannot be physically there to console them, let us spiritually be there with those, like the saviour, are alone, in pain and fighting death. 'Therefore, God raised him from the dead' – the perishable body takes on the imperishable (1 cor 15:53-55) and having lived a life like Christ, we too can say like St. Paul – "Death where is your victory?"

Jithin Titto 25/4/20