

by

Didymus

Evensong readings:

Acts ch.5, vv27-39

Gospel: Mark Ch.I, vv1-15.

After the drama and intensity of Easter, Easter II tends to be an anti-climax, but it is anything but, if we consider the events following the Resurrection. The reading from Acts describes the reaction of the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of the Jewish faith, to the teaching of the Disciples at the Temple.

Gamaliel was the senior teacher of the law, who had taught Paul when younger, clearly a man wiser than his colleagues.



We celebrate the memory of St. Mark tomorrow by reading the beginning of his Gospel. There has always been some confusion over the order of the Gospels in the NT. It was originally thought that Matthew's Gospel was the first, but on closer research, virtually the whole of Mark's Gospel is contained in Matthew's Gospel. Logic tells us that Mark's Gospel was the first, subsequently adopted by Matthew and enlarged with additional material and narrative from Matthew, first or second hand.

John Mark, to give his correct name, accompanied Paul on part of his first Journey, but there was a disagreement and Mark came back. Mark's family supported Jesus and his Disciples, and some think that he was the boy who fled the Garden of Gethsemane as Jesus was arrested. He travelled with his cousin, Barnabas, and later the dispute with Paul was settled. At some point he joined Peter and travelled with him to Rome as a companion and

helper. His notes on Peter's sermons formed a large part of the Gospel that he compiled in about 63-64AD. It is the reason why we know so much more about Peter than most of the other Disciples.

We talk of the Gospels being written in year X, Y or Z, but they are not something that could be put together without notes, consultation, additions and exclusions, cross-checking,

- and also love and prayer. Writing anything of length, requires a lot of work, and takes a long while, especially if the document is one of deep and meaningful thought and teaching. The Gospels, surely, were not written lightly as one might write a textbook or reference book.

It would have taken years before the final work appeared. They were records of the most amazing man and his ministry that the world has seen. We thank God for them.

AMEN

The illustrations are of Peter facing the Sanhedrin, and of Peter dictating a sermon to Mark.

PS:- A personal note

Our Archbishop Justin has spoken about the proposed treatment of migrants. Bless him, he's absolutely right. These are people, as much God's people as ourselves, and although they pose a problem for us, it is not one "to kick into the long grass".