

## **SAINTS DEPICTED IN ST MICHAEL'S WINDOWS**

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### St Mary – Virgin Mary

Mary was the mother of Jesus and was descended from the House of King David.

### St Anne

The mother of Mary.

### St Elizabeth

Wife of Zechariah, a priest in the temple of Jerusalem, Elizabeth was a cousin of Mary and mother of John the Baptist. She was from the priestly family of Aaron.

### St Margaret of Scotland (c1045-1093)

Married to the Scottish King Malcolm III.

Patron saint of women in labour (travail).

Feast Day: 16 November

### St Peter (d c64)

Apostle. Peter, originally named Simon, was a fisherman of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee when he and his brother Andrew were called by Jesus to be his disciples. Renamed Peter, meaning Rock, by Jesus, to be the building block for the Christian church.

He is said to have died the death of a martyr for his faith during the reign of Nero, being crucified head downwards at his own wish.

Patron saint of fishermen, clockmakers, bridge builders, masons, shipbuilders.

Symbol: Crossed keys

Feast Day: 29 June

### St Andrew (1<sup>st</sup> C AD)

Apostle. Andrew heard about Jesus from John the Baptist then met him the following day. Both he and his brother Peter were invited by Jesus to be his disciples by the Sea of Galilee.

Andrew spread the gospel in Greece and Constantinople.

Crucified on a X-shaped cross at Patras in Achaia.

Patron of Russia, Scotland and Greece, fishermen and of old maids.

Symbol: Diagonal cross  
Feast Day: 30 November

### St James the Greater (d 44)

Apostle. Brother of John. Both were fishermen called to be disciples of Jesus. Arrested in Jerusalem on the orders of King Herod Agrippa I he was beheaded, becoming the first of the apostles to die.

Patron Saint of pilgrims, blacksmiths and labourers.

Symbol: Scallop shell

Feast Day: 25 July

### St John (d c 100)

Apostle. Also called John the Apostle, John the Evangelist or John the Divine. A fisherman of Galilee with his brother Andrew, sons of Zebedee. He was the youngest and most trusted of the disciples, rarely separated from Jesus and was present at the main events. He was the only disciple to be present at the crucifixion of Jesus and John was entrusted to care for Jesus' mother Mary.

Following the deaths of Peter and Paul, John stayed with the church at Ephesus.

After escaping execution in Rome he was exiled to the island of Patmos where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Then he returned to Ephesus and finally died a natural death at a very old age.

Patron saint of theologians and writers.

Symbol: Chalice with snake

Feast Day: 27 December

### St Philip (1<sup>st</sup> C AD)

Apostle. He lived in Bethsaida in Galilee before being called as a disciple. He also persuaded Bartholomew to join the group.

Philip was present at important times in Jesus' ministry including the feeding of the five thousand and the Last Supper.

Following the crucifixion of Jesus he is said to have preached the gospel in Phrygia and ultimately to have died in Hierapolis, possibly being martyred for his faith during the reign of Domitian.

Patron saint of Uruguay.

Symbols: Staff with cross and loaves of bread

Feast Day: 3 May

### St Bartholomew (1<sup>st</sup> C AD)

Apostle. Named as one of the twelve apostles he was also called Nathanael. He promoted Christianity into India. It is believed he died as a martyr at Derberd in Armenia, being flayed alive and beheaded. His body was taken to an island in the Tiber at Rome and his church there became famous for medical expertise, hence the naming of St Barts hospital in London.

Patron saint of tanners, bookbinders and cobblers

Symbol: Flaying knife

Feast Day: 24 August

### St Thomas (1<sup>st</sup> C AD)

Apostle. Thomas was termed Didymus, meaning twin, in St John's gospel. He was present at the Last Supper but famously was absent at the moment of Jesus' resurrection. He was then referred to as 'Doubting' Thomas because he did not believe the other disciples' account. Then Jesus appeared to him allowed Thomas to touch his wounds upon which he expressed immediate conviction. It is unclear what became of him after these events. One story says he preached the gospel in India and may have died as a martyr when speared at Mylapore near Madras. Another claims that he spent the rest of his life evangelising in Parthia.

Patron saint of builders

Symbol: Set square and a star

Feast Day: 3 July

### St Matthew (1<sup>st</sup> C AD)

Apostle. Matthew was a Galilean tax collector working for the Romans in Capernaum until Jesus called him to follow him and be a disciple. Also referred to as Levi in the gospels of Mark and Luke. He is credited with writing the first of the gospels between the years of 60 and 90. He may have been martyred in Persia or Ethiopia.

Patron saints of accountants, bookkeepers, tax collectors

Symbol: Book

Feast Day: 21 September

### St James the Less (d c 61)

Apostle. James the Less was the son of Alphaeus, traditionally identified either as a brother or first cousin of Jesus. The risen Christ appeared to him and he

became the first bishop of Jerusalem. He presided over a meeting of the apostles to discuss whether Gentile converts had to become Jews. The resulting outcome was decided, that Gentiles and Jews could worship alongside each other in the church to which James was a great supporter. The Sanhedrin objected to this and hauled him before the court in Jerusalem. He was then stoned or beaten with a fuller's club. James is identified as the author of the Epistle of St James in the New Testament.

Patron saint of Uruguay, apothecaries, pharmacists and the dying

Symbol: Fuller's club

Feast Day: 3 May

### St Simon the Zealot (1<sup>st</sup> C AD)

Apostle. Few details of Simon are provided by Matthew other than he was one of the twelve apostles. He preached the gospel in Egypt and Persia and was thought to have been martyred in Persia alongside St Jude.

Symbol: Boat or saw

Feast Day: 28 October

### St Thaddeus (Nathaniel) (1<sup>st</sup> C AD)

Apostle. Often identified with Jude, apostle and author of the book in the New Testament. He is thought to be the brother of James. Simon and Jude were the two apostles who went to Persia to preach and were martyred there.

Patron saint for suffering with special difficulties

Symbol: Battle axe

Feast Day: 28 October

### St Matthias (1<sup>st</sup> C AD)

Apostle. According to Acts 1:15-26 and 2:1-4, Matthias was the chosen one to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the twelve apostles following Jesus' Ascension. He witnessed the Resurrection and he was present to receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He most likely preached in Judaea, Cappadocia and Ethiopia before being crucified himself. It is thought he wrote a gospel which has since been lost.

Symbol: Spear

Feast Day: 14 May

### St Mark (1<sup>st</sup> C AD)

Biblical Evangelist, Mark was born in Jerusalem. He was in the Garden of Gethsemane when the Roman soldiers arrested Jesus and he was the young man in the robe who slipped out of it when the soldier took hold of him. He became a friend of Peter and Paul. He, with his cousin Barnabas, accompanied Paul on his first missionary Journey. Mark, however, offended Paul when he soon turned back. Instead, Barnabas and Mark went to Cyprus to spread the gospel there.

Mark was later reconciled to Paul and accompanied him to Rome and visited Paul in prison following his arrest.

He probably wrote his gospel while in Rome, based on Peter's recollections and teachings. It is doubtful that Mark actually met Jesus himself.

He ended his life evangelizing in Alexandria, becoming the city's first bishop.

He was martyred for his faith during the reign of Emperor Trajan.

Patron saint of glaziers, prisoners and the city of Venice where his relics are supposed to have been taken in the 9<sup>th</sup> century and preserved in the first church of San Marco.

Symbol: Winged lion

Feast Day: 25 April

### St Paul (d c 67)

Apostle. Born a Jew and a Roman citizen of Tarsus in Cilicia, modern Turkey. First known as Saul, brought up as a strict Pharisee and zealous opponent of the first Christians. While he followed his trade of tent making he actively participated in the persecution of Jews who had converted to Christianity. He took part in the stoning of St Stephen and he obtained permission to arrest all the Jewish converts in Damascus.

While on the road to Damascus to persecute the Christians around the year 35 AD he had a vision of the risen Christ. As a result he was temporarily blinded. He became convinced that Christ wanted to turn his life around, making him a witness to the Gentiles on his behalf.

On his recovery, he was converted to Christianity assuming the name Paul, then spent three years in prayer and solitude in Arabia.

The rest of his life was dedicated to spreading the gospel to non-Jews, embarking on the first of his missionary journeys around the year 45 AD. These continued through the Mediterranean and Asia Minor, and so he became the first great missionary of the Christian church.

Paul wrote letters to the Christian churches and thirteen of these have been hugely influential in shaping Christian theology for centuries to come and are

recorded in the New Testament. Paul was arrested twice for his faith, first in Jerusalem, secondly in Rome where he was beheaded on the orders of Emperor Nero.

Patron saint of Greece, Malta and Rome, tent makers

### St Luke (1<sup>st</sup> C AD)

Biblical Evangelist. According to a few facts in the New Testament he was possibly born in Antioch of Gentile Greek parentage and he practised medicine.

Luke accompanied Paul on his missionary journeys and was with him when their ship was wrecked off Malta. Paul described Luke as his only faithful companion in Rome.

He eventually returned to Greece and died aged 84, possibly dying a martyr's death. He is credited with writing the third gospel and the Acts of the Apostles.

Patron saint of Physicians, surgeons, butchers and artists

Symbol: Bull

Feast Day: 18 October

### St Michael the Archangel

The biblical angel is identified in Daniel 10:13-21 as the protector of the Israelites and in Revelation 12:7-9 as the conqueror of the satanic dragon. As chief of all God's angels, he was singled out for special praise by the Jews and early Christians.

Patron saint of soldiers, the sick, city of Brussels

Feast Day: 29 September

### Gabriel The Archangel

The biblical angel of the annunciations of the birth of both John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. Gabriel is identified in the Old Testament appearing to Daniel in Daniel 8:15 and 9:21

In the New Testament he reappears to Zachariah, the father of the unborn John the Baptist as recorded in Luke 1:11-20 and to Mary to announce the coming birth of Christ recorded in Luke 1:26-38.

Patron saint of the Post Office and Telecommunications Workers since 1921

Symbol: Spear and shield emblazoned with a lily

Feast Day: 29 September

### Raphael the Archangel

The biblical angel who is identified in John 5:1-4 as the angel who moved the waters of the healing pool at Jerusalem. His name means 'God has healed'. His association with healing and his reputation as the most approachable and sympathetic of the three archangels is reflected by the veneration of his statue at Lourdes.

Patron saint of travellers, the blind, doctors and nurses

Feast Day: 29 September