Saint James:Apostle

Born: 1st Century BC

Died: AD 44

Feast day: 25th July

DERRY DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL CENTRE

James the great, also known as James, son of Zebedee, was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, according to the New Testament. He was the brother of John the Apostle.

James was one of the first disciples to join Jesus. He was working with his father and his brother, John, at the seashore when Jesus called them to follow him. (Mark 1:19; Matthew 4:21; Luke 5:10) He was a fisherman.

He was one of three apostles to witness the Transfiguration.He also witnessed the raising of Jairus' daughter from the dead and Jesus' Agony in the Garden. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that 'Herod the king' had James executed by sword. He was the first apostle to die for following Jesus. He and his brother John were called 'sons of thunder.' Mark 3: 13-19; Matthew 10:2-4; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:13-14

Some suggest that James made a pilgrimage to Spain to spread the word of Jesus. On his return to Judaea he was executed.

James is the Patron Saint of Spain and of pilgrims.
According to tradition, his remains are held in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia.

The scallop shell of Saint James is believed to promote courage, strength and hope. The shell of Saint James is the traditional emblem of Santiago, and is popular with pilgrims on the Way of St James (El Camino) travelling to the apostle's shrine at Santiago de Compostela in Galicia