

Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 21st April)

21st April

Saint Anselm - *doctor of the Church, bishop*

Anselm was born in 1033 of the year following and died in 1109. He was an Italian Benedictine monk and rose to become Abbot of Bec in France. He was later summoned to live in the newly established Abbey of S Stephen in Caen. In 1093, despite his reluctance, he was enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury; but he continued to follow a monastic discipline. His relationships with Kings William II and Henry I were not easy and he was twice exiled. Amongst other points of conflict was the Investiture Crisis, which represented a struggle between ecclesiastics and kings as to who should appoint and install prelates. He returned to his see for the last time in 1107, following a formal agreement with Henry I. It was during his archiepiscopate that the Province of York was subordinated to its Southern sister. Anselm was a prolific theological author. Perhaps his most famous and important work is *Cur Deus Homo* (Why God became Man), which studies the central and essential role of the Incarnation in Christ's work. He is sometimes known as "The Magnificent Doctor."



23rd April



Saint George - *martyr*

George was born to Greek Christian parents. His father was from Cappodocia and served in the Roman army; his mother was from Palestine. So far as we know, George himself was a soldier in the Praetorian Guard during the time of Diocletian (a great persecutor of Christians); and was executed for refusing to renounce his faith. He was quickly recognised as a saint and his cult spread. He died in AD303 and there might have been a church dedicated to him in Constantinople within a few years. He was an important patron for crusaders: though, somewhat ironically, he is much revered throughout the Middle East. There are many legends associated with his life - including, of course, the one about the dragon.

25th April

Saint Mark - *Evangelist*

Mark is traditionally identified as the author of the second of the canonical Gospels. He was not one of the twelve Apostles; but some suggest that he was one of the seventy sent out by Christ (Luke 10: 1ff). There are those who say he is the same person as John Mark, mentioned in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles as an assistant of Saint Paul. He is said to have founded the great See of Alexandria. His relics are now believed to lie in the Basilica bearing his name in Venice.

