

This was the reason for variations in the listings. Jerome, in his *Vulgate*, placed them in the Matthew-Mark-Luke-John order. Yet in his: *On Illustrious Men* treats Luke before Mark.

Augustine, in his first book gives the order in which he received the gospels (Luke's after Mark's). But in his forth book, he writes: **“Mark ...appears rather as one who goes with Mathew ... or, ... more probably goes in step with both. ... he agrees with Matthew in many things, yet in some things he agrees with Luke”**. So Augustine judged Mark as writing after the other two. Today many churches in the East use the Matthew-Luke-Mark order in their liturgies.

Peter's talk stimulated questions and his answers were recorded in Mark's chapter 16: 9 onwards. Clement reports that two editions of Mark's Gospel were published. Archaeologists confirm this. They say the editions can be distinguished by one edition omitting from 16: 9 onwards. Peter would have spoken in a different style when answering questions, so another 'problem' is solved. The answers can be linked to the pre-16:9 wording.

Fr. Orchard died before he could fully promote his ideas. So I collected them and, with extra supporting evidence, they can be read on the website

www.churchinhistory.org
Section 3, **The Clementine Gospel Tradition**

The Church, in Dei Verbum, sections 7, 18 and 19 states:

“ ... Christ the Lord ... commissioned the Apostles to preach to all men that Gospel which is the source of all saving truth ... This commission was faithfully fulfilled by the Apostles who, by their oral preaching, ... handed on what they had received from the lips of Christ, from living with Him, and from what He did, ... The commission was fulfilled, too, by those Apostles and apostolic men who ... committed the message of salvation to writing.

... the Gospels are the principal witness for the life and teaching of our saviour. The Church has always and everywhere held and continues to hold that the four Gospels are of apostolic origin. For what the Apostles preached in fulfilment of the commission of Christ, afterwards they themselves and apostolic men, ... handed on to us in writing ... the fourfold Gospel, according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.(1)

Holy Mother Church ... continues to hold, that the four Gospels just named, whose historical character the Church unhesitatingly asserts, faithfully hand on what Jesus Christ, really did and taught ...”

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History of the Gospels

