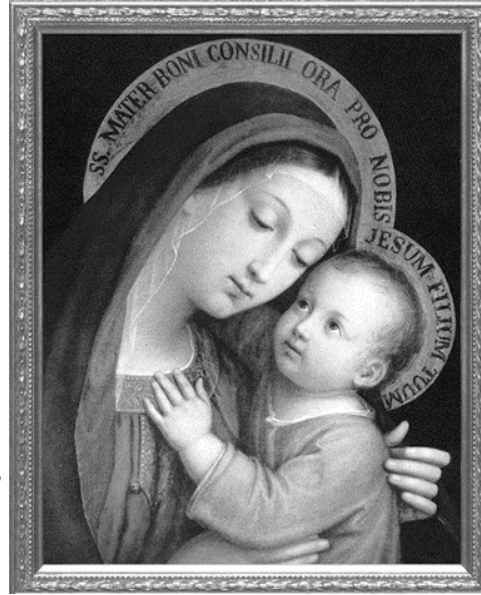


ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

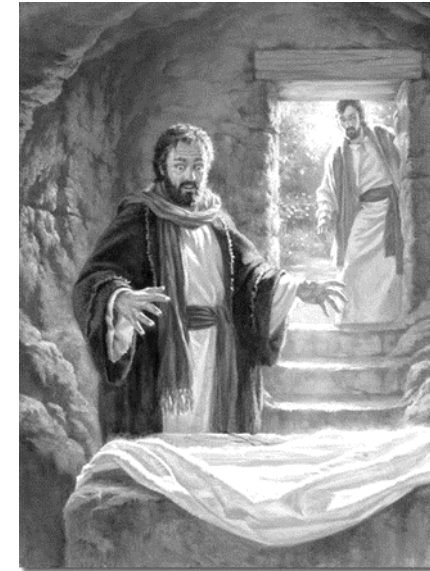
Friday, April 26: Our Lady of Good Counsel

This title honouring Mary appears early in Christian history. In return for financial assistance in renovating the church of Saint Mary Major in Rome, Pope Sixtus III (432-440) granted land to the people of Genazzano, Italy. Eventually, a church consecrated to Our Lady of Good Counsel was built there and entrusted to the care of the Augustinian Order.

Mysteriously, an Albanian icon, Our Lady of Shkodra (Good Counsel), arrived at this Church in April 1467. The image depicts Mary and the Christ Child. Numerous healings and miracles have been attributed to the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel. She is a patron of many women's groups, including the Catholic Women's League of Canada.



Easter Sunday (Resurrection of the Lord)



21 April 2019

Gospel - John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

Adult Confirmation Classes start on 5 May 2019 (Sunday)

Classes on 5 consecutive Sundays:

5, 12, 19 & 26 May and 2 June

From 2.30-4pm at Upper Hall

Please submit the completed application form to
the Parish Office with your baptismal certificate.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH 37 GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG

T: (852) 2522-3992 F: (852) 2537-7463 W: <http://www.stjosephs.hk> E: saintjoseph@gmail.com

Eucharistic Celebrations

Weekdays: 7:45 a.m., 12 noon & 6:00 p.m. Anticipated Sunday Masses: Saturday 6:00 p.m.

Sundays: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Tagalog Masses: 1, 2:30 & 4:00 p.m.

Sunday School Mass at St. Joseph's College, 7 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong 9 a.m.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS

Jesus our Lord is risen. Alleluia! Today, we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead. This is the central mystery of our faith as Christians. As the apostle Paul tells us, if Christ has not been raised from the dead, our faith in him is useless. We are invited to rise with Jesus. But first we have to die to our old self, our sinfulness, and selfish desires. Only then shall we rise again as new men and women: repentant, full of hope and happiness. Our confidence lies in Jesus who conquered the power of sin and death. United with him, we too can become new persons. I confess...

HEADINGS FOR READINGS

Acts 10: 34, 37-43 - The Resurrection of Jesus is the heart of Christian faith.

1 Corinthians 5: 6-8 - The Resurrection challenges us to die to sin and to rise as a new faithful person.

John 20: 1-9 - Jesus rises from the dead.

SCRIPTURE NOTE

Jesus is nowhere visible. Yet today's Gospel tells us that Peter and John "saw and believed."

What did they see? Burial shrouds lying on the floor of an empty tomb. Maybe that convinced them that He hadn't been carted off by grave robbers, who usually stole the expensive burial linens and left the corpses behind. But notice the repetition of the word "tomb"—seven times in nine verses. They saw the empty tomb and they believed what He had promised: that God would raise Him on the third day.

Chosen to be His "witnesses," today's First Reading tells us, the Apostles were "commissioned . . . to preach . . . and testify" to all that they had seen—from His anointing with the Holy Spirit at the Jordan to the empty tomb. More than their own experience, they were instructed in the mysteries of the divine economy, God's saving plan—to know how "all the prophets bear witness" to Him.

Now they could "understand the Scripture," could teach us what He had told them—that He was "the Stone which the builders rejected," that today's Psalm prophesies His Resurrection and exaltation.

We are the children of the apostolic witnesses. That is why we still gather early in the morning on the first day of every week to celebrate this feast of the empty tomb, give thanks for "Christ our life," as today's Epistle calls Him. Baptized into His death and Resurrection, we live the heavenly life of the risen Christ, our lives "hidden with Christ in God." We are now His witnesses, too. But we testify to things we cannot see but only believe; we seek in earthly things what is above.

We live in memory of the Apostles' witness, like them eating and drinking with the risen Lord at the altar. And we wait in hope for what the Apostles told us would come—the day when we too "will appear with Him in glory." (Scott Hann)

The
WORD
by name
is Jesus Christ

Calendars



Tuesday, April 23: Saint George

Little is known about George, who was killed for his faith in Palestine at the beginning of the fourth century. Believed to be a soldier in the Roman army, he was involved in the organization of a Christian community at Urmiah (modern Iran), and visited Britain on an imperial expedition. During the reign of Edward III (14th century), he was made a patron of the kingdom. George is also patron of several Mediterranean and European countries and cities, and the Boy Scouts.

George has figured prominently in popular feasts and folklore: 12th-century literature hailed him as the dragon-slayer. During the Middle Ages, he was a popular patron of knights, soldiers and crusaders, who adopted what was called St George's Arms, a red cross on a white background. The red cross appears on the modern Union Jack.

Thursday, April 25: Saint Mark

The author of the earliest and shortest gospel, Mark was a member of the first Christian community in Jerusalem. Christians used his mother's house there as a place of prayer during Peter's imprisonment under Herod Agrippa I (see Acts 12.12).

When Paul and Barnabas returned from Jerusalem, they took Mark back with them to Antioch in Syria. Later, they brought him along as their assistant on a missionary journey. After this, Mark returned to Jerusalem.

In Christian art Mark is often depicted with a winged lion. Legends speak of Mark as bishop of Alexandria, where he cured a shoemaker and was killed in the streets of the city. He is patron of notaries, of Egypt and Venice.

