

### Saturday, April 13: Saint Martin I

*A seventh-century pope, Martin was born in Todi, Italy. With many contacts between the Roman Church and the Eastern Empire in his era, Martin was appointed as the papal legate in Constantinople before succeeding Theodore I as pope in 649.*

*At the Lateran Council, Martin opposed the monothelite heresy, which held that Christ had only one will, the divine will, and not a human will as well. Since Emperor Constans II favoured the heresy, Martin was exiled to Constantinople, where he was stripped of his honours and condemned to death. He later died in misery and hunger in the Crimea, the last pope to be martyred.*



## 5th Sunday of Lent



# ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

**7 April 2019**

## Holy Week & Easter 2019

### Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) - 14 April 2019

Blessing of Palms and Procession at all Masses:

7, 8, 9, 10, 11.30am & 6pm at Church

1, 2:30 & 4pm (Tagalog) at Church

### Holy Thursday: The Lord's Supper - 18 April 2019

8pm – The Lord's Supper Mass (English) at Church

9-10pm – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Room A

### Good Friday: The Lord's Passion - 19 April 2019

10am & 6pm – Way of the Cross (English)

3pm – Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English) at Church & Car Park

### Holy Saturday - 20 April 2019

4.30pm – Easter Vigil Service (Cantonese)

8pm – Easter Vigil Service (English)

### Easter Sunday: Resurrection of the Lord - 21 April 2019

7, 8, 9, 10, 11.30am & 6pm – English Masses at Church

1, 2:30 & 4pm – Tagalog Masses at Church

*Additional English Mass – 10.30am at Car Park*

### **Gospel-John 8:1-11**

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

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#### 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

In today's Gospel, Jesus invites us to look into our hearts. His answer to those who would condemn the woman caught in adultery applies also to us: He who has no sin be the first to cast a stone. We may be better off than other people, but not because we are less of a sinner than they. It is because we are not exposed for what we are. But God sees into our hearts, and tells us not to condemn easily because we, too, are in need of his forgiveness. For the times we have judged others we ask forgiveness... *I confess...*

## HEADINGS FOR READINGS

**Isaiah 43: 16-21** - To the people living in exile, the Lord announces His plan of saving them.

**Philippians 3: 8-14** - We are continuously moved to know the Lord more deeply.

**John 8: 1-11** - The woman caught in adultery.

## SCRIPTURE NOTE

The liturgy this Lent has shown us the God of the Exodus. He is a mighty and gracious God, Who out of faithfulness to His covenant has done "great things" for His people, as today's Psalm puts it. But the "things of long ago," Isaiah tells us in today's First Reading, are nothing compared to the "something new" that He will do in the future.

Today's First Reading and Psalm look back to the marvelous deeds of the Exodus. Both see in the Exodus a pattern and prophecy of the future, when God will restore the fortunes of His people fallen in sin. The readings today look forward to a still greater Exodus, when God will gather in the exiled tribes of Israel that had been scattered to the four winds, the ends of the earth.

The new Exodus that Israel waited and hoped for has come in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Like the adulterous woman in today's Gospel, all have been spared by the Lord's compassion. All have heard His words of forgiveness, His urging to repentance, to be sinners no more. Like Paul in today's Epistle, Christ has taken possession of every one, claimed each as a child of our heavenly Father.

In the Church, God has formed a people for Himself to announce His praise, just as Isaiah said He would. And as Isaiah promised, He has given His "chosen people" living waters to drink in the desert wastelands of the world.

But our God is ever a God of the future, not of the past. We are to live with hopeful hearts, "forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead," as Paul tells us. His salvation, Paul says, is power in the present, "the power of His resurrection."

We are to live awaiting a still greater and final Exodus, pursuing "the goal, the prize of God's upward calling," striving in faith to attain the last new thing God promises — "the resurrection of the dead." (Scott Hann)

The  
**WORD**  
by name  
is Jesus Christ

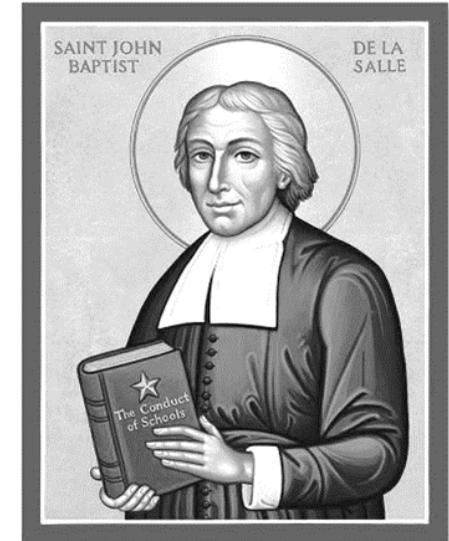
# Calendars

## Sunday, April 7: Saint John Baptist de la Salle

*John Baptist de la Salle was the founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, a teaching order well known in North America and around the world.*

*John's great achievements began quite unexpectedly. Born in 1651 in France, he inherited the position and riches of his family. Destined for a successful career in the Church, he was ordained in 1678 and soon was asked to help establish some charity schools. He quickly realized that the teachers had to be trained and he provided housing for them. His desire to be in the same position as his teachers inspired him to resign his canonry and to give up his private fortune.*

*In 1684 the group became a religious community. Their rule stated that no brother could become a priest and no priest could join the order, a rule that has been preserved. Despite much opposition and hardship, by the time of his death in 1719, John Baptist had established the first teacher training college, schools for both the poor and privileged, and written several education manuals, now classics in the field of education. He is a patron of teachers.*



## Thursday, April 11: Saint Stanislaus

*Well known for his care of the poor, Stanislaus was born in Szczepanów, Poland, about 1030. In 1072 he became bishop of Kraków. Vocal in his criticism of King Boleslav's behaviour, Stanislaus was killed by the king himself during the celebration of Mass. Boleslav later fled to relatives in Hungary, where he spent his life as a penitent in a Benedictine abbey. Stanislaus was canonized in 1253 and is one of the patrons of Poland.*