

The Gospel of Mark



We have four Gospels: **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John**. MARK is used in “Liturgical Year B.” It is the earliest written Gospel; understanding it can help us to personally encounter Jesus in a profound way.

What is the Gospel of Mark? This Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ, written in a straightforward, right-to-the-point way. It is so direct that, at one time, some thought it was a collection of notes. It is believed that the disciple Mark, who followed Peter around and took notes on his preaching, wrote it. Several early fathers of the church make references to the man who wrote this Gospel, based on Peter’s preaching. However Mark must have put his own spin on Peter’s words or else this Gospel would have been called the Gospel of Peter rather than Mark! So what we have in this Gospel is the saving message that Peter preached, with Mark’s personal touch. This is a good reminder for us that the apostles preached concrete stories about their relationship with Jesus and what Jesus did.

Who was Mark? According to Catholic tradition, the author of the second Gospel is “John Mark.” His mother was named Mary, and she owned the house in Jerusalem where the early church met (Acts 12:12). When Barnabas and Paul visited Jerusalem, they took John Mark with them to Antioch, but he left the trip early and returned home. The next time Barnabas and Paul went on a journey, Barnabas wanted to take John Mark. Paul did not want to take him, because he had abandoned the last trip. Paul and Barnabas disagreed so strongly that they split up in their missionary travels (Acts 15:36-41).

In his first letter, Peter writes that he is in Rome with “Mark,” an abbreviation of “John Mark.” The tradition of Mark in Rome is connected with the long-held belief that Mark took notes on Peter’s preaching and recorded them in what we have today as his Gospel. Eusebius recorded the tradition that Mark went on to bring the faith to Egypt and was the first bishop of Alexandria.

What does the Gospel of Mark tell us? This Gospel deals with the ministry in Galilee, and the events of the last week of Jesus’ life. Mark begins with the Baptism of Jesus at the Jordan River; his concern throughout is more the actions of Jesus than His words. The miracles occupy a quarter of the Gospel.

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* says, “There seems to be desire to impress the readers from the outset with Christ’s almighty power...” The first Chapter has 3 miracles; 15 of the 18 miracles occur in the first 8 Chapters. Mark emphasizes Jesus’ human feelings, and the effect of His miracles on the crowd. Mark focuses on the mission and the meaning of Jesus.

How would we use mark’s Gospel in our daily life? The Gospel of Mark can be used as a powerful tool to draw us closer to Jesus. This of course is the original intent of the Gospel, to bring people to Jesus. Reading Mark’s Gospel is a great help for people who are depressed, feeling powerless or worried about something they can’t do anything about. Whenever we are in this state, we should read Mark, especially those first 8 Chapters with all the miracle stories. We can let those miracles, one by one, wash over us. Each of those miracles reminds us of God’s great power and how Jesus reached out to help those who were powerless.

In Chapter 2, men bring their friend to Jesus for a cure. They cannot even get near Jesus because of the crowd. They are feeling as helpless as we would feel if we brought a sick child into a crowded emergency room and the receptionist just told us take a seat and wait; but these men lowered their friend through the roof. Jesus rewarded them, despite their clumsy attempts to get His attention. We remind ourselves that He will notice us too when we am in these situations.

In Chapter 3, Jesus goes to the synagogue and sees a man with a shriveled hand. The man does not even ask for a cure. Jesus just cures him. How many times has Jesus helped me before I even thought about asking?

In Chapter 5, a possessed man, whom we would call “psychotic” today, rushes at Jesus. We can feel for this man. He is overwhelmed with anxiety. He does not know whether he is coming or going. He can’t think straight. He is full of fear. He does not want to be hurting anymore. Does any of that sound familiar? Jesus cures him. He could not even ask for a cure. Jesus knew exactly what he needed, and He provided it for him with true compassion and love. These miracle stories in Mark are very consoling.

Mark’s Gospel reminds us that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour, into the world to save us. The way we show our love and thanks is by the way we live our lives. To live according to Mark’s Gospel, we have to trust in God’s love for us. Even when times are tough, we can live in joy and peace.



Parish Week Sunday, 23 July 2017

Saturday, 22 July / St. Mary Magdalene

- 8.00 am Mass: † Melecia Victorino (family)
9.00 am New Altar Servers
5.00 pm Mass: † Marie & Anthony Rego (family)

SUNDAY, 23 JULY / 16- A

■ *Homilist: Bishop Alfred Agyenta, Diocese of Navrongo*

■ *Annual Mission Co-op Appeal*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Joseph Farkas (Emma Allair)
10.30 am Mass: Int. Tessie Mendonca (friends)
- **Bishop Romeo Lazo, presider**
12.00 pm Mass: † Billy & Ludy Ombac (family)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 24 July / St. Charbel Makhluf, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Benjamin Lobo (family)
7.00 pm Mass: † Amelia Wallis (Lalita & Joseph)

Tuesday, 25 July / St. James, apostle

- 8.00 am Mass: † Maria Scheibli (Mike & Valerie)

Wednesday, 26 July / Ss. Joachim & Anne, Parents of Mary

- 8.00 am Mass: † Erlinda De Leon (family)

Thursday, 27 July

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Bill McConkey (Marie Collins)

Friday, 28 July

■ *Youth Ministry: Steubenville Toronto (UOIT, Oshawa)*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Zarina Zubaida D'Souza
(children & grandchildren)

Saturday, 29 July / St. Martha

- 8.00 am Mass: † Victoria Go Sy (Don & Jacqueline Gonzales)
12.30 pm Wedding: Eric Walch & Katherine Rodas
2.00 pm Wedding: Troy Diaz & Maria Flancia
5.00 pm Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas
(Vethanayagi Rayappan)

SUNDAY, 30 JULY / 17- A

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

■ *2nd Collection: Maintenance Collection*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Pasqualina Della Vista (Grande family)
10.30 am Mass: † George Thompson (Clarence)
12.00 pm Mass: † Teresita Maulion (Corine)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo



Bishop Jose Romeo Lazo

Diocese of San Jose de Antique

St. Maria Goretti Parish extends a prayerful welcome to His Excellency, **Bishop Lazo** of Antique, Philippines. He will preside at our 10.30 am Mass on Sunday, 23 July 2017.

Bishop Lazo was born 23 January 1949 in San Jose Buenavista, Antique. He was ordained a priest on 1 April 1975, and appointed the Fourth Bishop of San Jose de Antique by **Pope Benedict XVI** on 21 July 2009. He speaks English, Tagalog, Visaya.

Parish Album 7.40 pm, Monday, 31 July

Many thanks to the Team working on the final compilation of our Parish Jubilee Album. Next meeting: 7.40 pm, 31 July.

Focus on the Word

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Isaiah 49.14-15; 1 Corinthians 4.1-5; Matthew 6.24-34

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. Amen.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH !

Thanks to all for your support of our parish 2017 *ShareLife* Appeal. As of 9 July, we have reached a total of \$39,610.00 for this year's Campaign ! This is a real blessing, a tribute to the generosity of every donor, at a time of great need.

If you have not yet had a chance to participate in our parish Appeal, there is still time to help us reach our goal!

Our Parish goal for 2017 is: \$50,000.00.

There are still late donations coming in; this year's Campaign officially closes at the end of July. We will publish the Grand Total for our 2017 Campaign in the first bulletin in August.



Mass Intentions: Requests for 2018

The Mass Intention book for 2018 is now open. Requests will be taken after any Sunday Mass and during weekday office hours.

2nd Collection - 23 July: Mission Co-op



[Above: Spiritual Renewal Centre at Kongo, Navrongo diocese.]

On Sunday, 23 July, the 2nd collection will be for our annual parish Mission Co-op Appeal. This year, we are honoured to host **Most Rev. Alfred Agyenta**, SSL, STD, DD, of the Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga, GHANA, near the Northern border with Burkina Faso.

The diocese was erected on 30 May 1977, under the patronage of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows. It covers an area of 17,000 square kilometers. The general population is 1,500,000, of whom 200,000 are Catholic (about 13%). Sacred Heart Cathedral is in Bolgatanga, and Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Minor Basilica is in Navrongo.

COMING UP

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30 July

2nd Collection: *Maintenance*

7 Aug.

Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)

12 Aug.

Wedding: Davidson-Olivacce (1:00 pm)

13 Aug.

- 2nd Collection: *Scarborough Foreign Missions*