

MARK'S GOSPEL

ENGLISH COMIC EDITION



Volume 1



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Preface

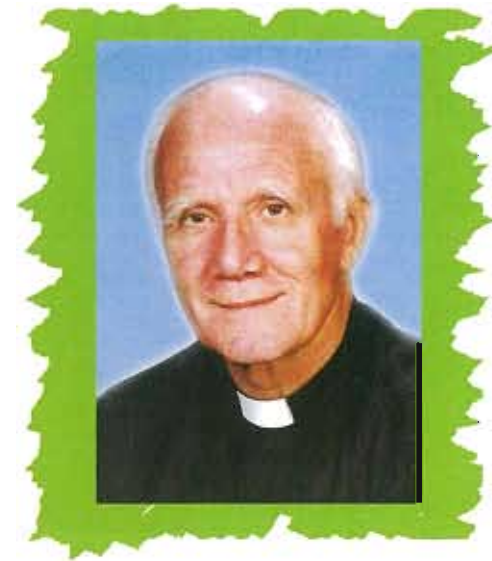
God bless those who contributed to this English Comic Edition of Mark's Gospel, and all who seek in its pages the teaching and salvation of OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

In the task of spreading God's good news to the widest possible readership irrespective of their ages, this book represents a daring attempt. This comic edition, along with illustrations and commentaries, facilitates the understanding of the Scripture text in an innovative and easy-to-read format.

May God bestow His blessings on its readers and see fit to make this book a conduit to touch the hearts and reach the souls of the young generations.

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few....." Matt 9:37

**MARK'S
GOSPEL**
ENGLISH COMIC EDITION



Acknowledgement

The Editing Committee wishes to thank Fr. Denis Martin, S.D.B. posthumously for his contribution in translating the text of this comic edition of Mark's Gospel from Chinese to English, thus making this publication possible.

Fr. Martin came from England as a young missionary, and devoted 66 years of his apostolic life evangelizing and educating the Chinese youths. He held numerous key positions in most of the Salesian establishments in China, Hong Kong and Macau. He retired from active duty in 2005.

Upon retirement, he was involved in pastoral and literary work. His version of the translation of this text was completed shortly before he was hospitalized in the Winter of 2005; and on 4th January 2006, this servant of God returned to the Heavenly Father's embrace in his sleep, at 85.

"He used his life as an example to influence others' lives."

Fr. Denis Martin, S.D.B. (1921-2006)

-Image of Don Bosco-



Foreword

■ **Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kiun, S.D.B.**
Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong

Jesus Christ is our Saviour. When facing strong adversaries, he always defends the underprivileged. He adores children and welcomes them warmly. He emphasizes, "only those who turn and become like children can enter the Kingdom of Heaven." A place with teenagers and children is the place to build the City of God.

Comic books are written in the language of children and teenagers. However, they also appeal to adults. I hope this book can arouse people's interest to explore the Gospel and the Kingdom of Heaven.

Based on Our Lord's teachings, this comic book truly promotes God's message of righteousness and peace.

May God bless those who make good use of this book.





Foreword

■ **Fr. Steve Ryan, S.D.B.**
**Provincial Coordinator for Youth &
Young Adult Ministry**
Eastern Province, USA

The Salesian Spirituality is centered on bringing the Gospel of Christ to young people wherever they are – in their homes, schools, Churches, playgrounds, and workplaces. Why? Because young people are the future of the Church and civil society! St. John Bosco put it better when he said: “if we want to have a good society, we must concentrate all our forces on the Christian education of the young. ... if we wish to sustain civil society then we should take good care of the young”. He believed that religious education “alone can initiate and achieve a true education”. This is why I think that the book *Mark's Gospel: English Comic Edition* is a good instrument to spread religious education among young people, not only in China, but also in other parts of the world.

This book depicts accurately and beautifully the life of Jesus in an attractive style for young people. The graphic images and choice of colors are enticing. The character of the little priest-narrator is interesting. He is a great teacher who explains the concept of God in the teachings of Christ to the people: “it does not mean that God does not forgive, but it is man who does not open himself, who does not accept God's forgiveness” (p.70). Making God's mercy known to young people of all backgrounds was at the heart of St. John Bosco's mission; thus he is called the “Teacher of the Young”. This is the legacy he left for the Salesians when he said “this work will not only continue after my death, but will prosper evermore and spread to every part of the world.” The priest-narrator explains to Jesus' audience that he loves them and will provide for them all that they need if they but follow him. This constant and animating presence with people especially the young will help them grow in their friendship with Jesus Christ and that is why this book is a treasure. Through and with it, young people not only in China, but all over the world will be taught and be reminded of how to make the best choice in life – the choice to follow and be friends of Jesus. By doing so, they will become good Christians in the world.

I also recommend this book to parents, teachers, and instructors. Teaching young people is an urgent and noble task in our world today. We must get passionate and aggressive about it. St. John Bosco beautifully advised us: “Do you want to do a good deed? Teach the young! Do you want to perform a holy act? Teach the young! Do you want to do a holy thing? Teach the young! Truly, now and for the future, among holy things, this is the holiest.”



Main Characters

Jesus Christ



Identity: The Son of God, the Lord, the Son of Man, Messiah, Savior...

Description: It was the time of Caesar Augustus Emperor of Rome, Quirinius the governor of Syria and Herod the King of Judea. Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. (The calendar that is used today also counts from the year of Jesus' birth). The Holy Family then dwelt in a village called Nazareth.

When Jesus grew up, he taught and preached the Gospel throughout the region of Palestine. He was crucified and rose to life after his death. The details of Jesus' whole life can be found in this Gospel of Mark (Comic Edition).

Peter

Identity: Apostle

Description: Peter's original name was Simon. He was one of the Twelve Apostles, together with his brother Andrew. He was also the first among the Apostles to profess Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of the living God. Renamed 'Peter' (meaning the rock) by Jesus, he would be the rock on which the Church would be built. Christ also appointed him as the leader of the Apostles to preach the Gospel. As the leader of the early Church, he was the first Pope. In the year A.D. 67, he was martyred in Rome when Caesar Nero persecuted the Church. He was buried under the present St. Peter's Basilica on Vatican Hill in Rome.

Feast Day: 29th June



John

Identity: Apostle, the writer of the 'Gospel according to John' (the Evangelist)

Description: John was the son of Zebedee and the younger brother of James. Both were fishermen. John was a disciple of John the Baptist and later followed Jesus. He was the one whom Jesus loved the most and always had in his company. At the last supper, he reclined next to Jesus. When Jesus was crucified, John took the desolate Mother into his care as the last legacy of Christ. He was one of the 'Pillars' of the Church in its early period. He died about the year A.D.100.

Feast Day: 27th December



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Hello everyone! I am Father Joseph. I would like to tell you about a very good book.

This book is called The Gospel according to Mark. Its aim is to let children know more about the Gospel.

I have transcribed the original Gospel into this comic book.

And you will see me throughout this comic, ready to answer any questions you may have.

Even though St. Mark's comes second among the Gospels, it was perhaps the very first one completed in Greek.

This is Mark, also known as 'John'.

Mark was born into a wealthy family in Jerusalem.

It is written in the Gospel that, when Jesus was arrested at Gethsemane, a young man ran off naked. (Mark 14:51)

This was probably Mark, Barnabas' cousin (Colossians 4:10).

Paul and Barnabas chose him to join them on their first journey to spread the Gospel.

When Paul was jailed in Rome, Mark was there at his side. That's why he was known as Paul's true friend and aid.

Peter also called him 'my son Mark' (1 Peter 5:13). According to the Church's tradition, the Gospel according to Mark is known as the 'second Gospel'.

The first is The Gospel according to Matthew, the third is The Gospel according to Luke, and the fourth is The Gospel according to John.

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of all four.

It does not mention the childhood of Jesus.

The Gospel of Mark was originally written in Greek, the book was completed around 60 to 70 A.D.

It stresses Jesus' being the 'greater one', i.e. 'the Messiah, the Son of God'.

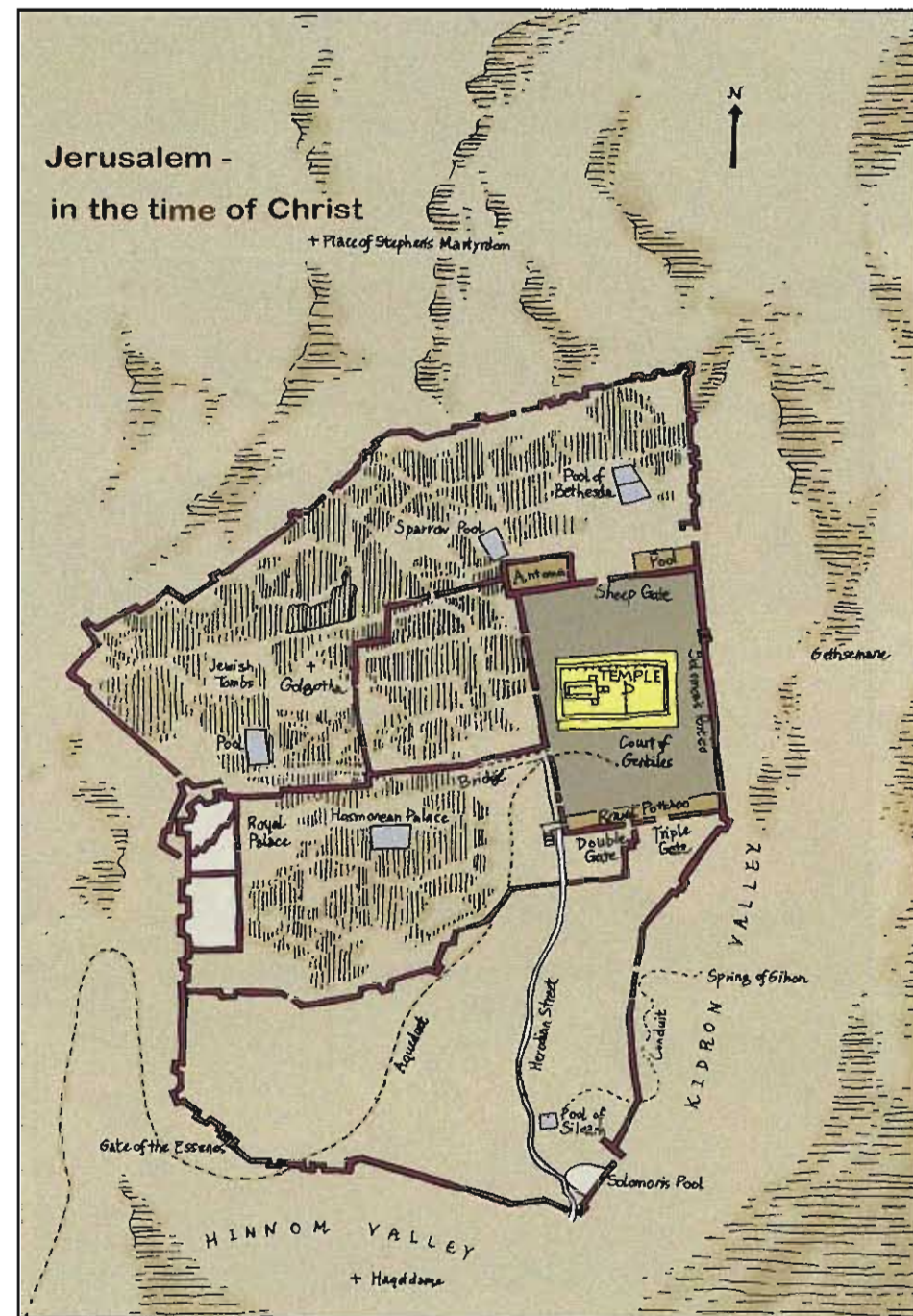
This Gospel was written in a straight-forward and vigorous way.

That's why the Gospel of Mark is also known as Peter's Gospel.

The author followed the witness account of Peter.

I hope all of you will enjoy this comic book.

I'll be seeing you later inside the comic-strip.



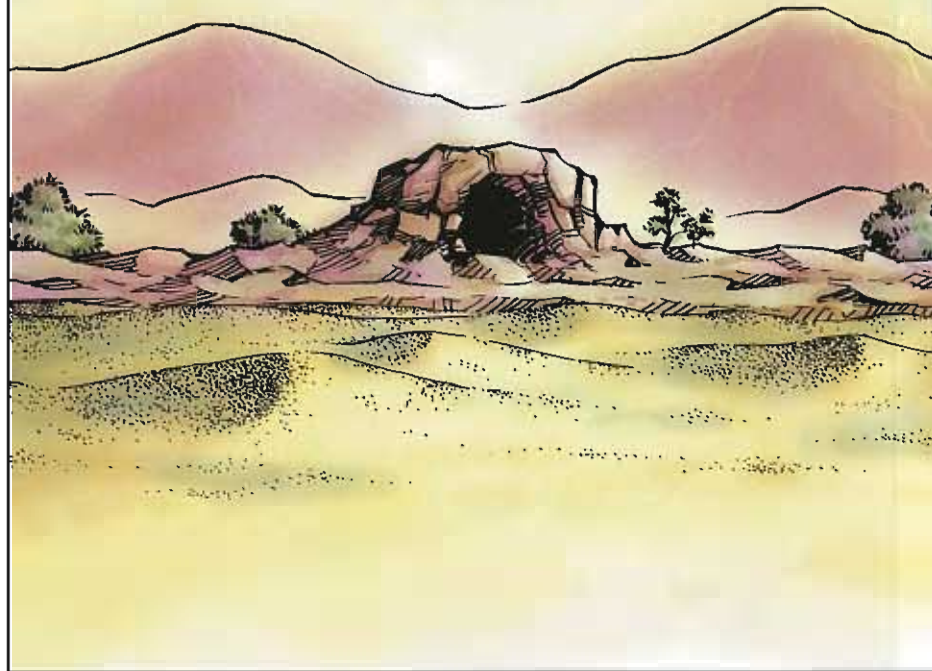
*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ
[the Son of God].*

*As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead
of you;*

he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

*'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.' "*



In the Judean countryside...



The Preparation for the Public Ministry of Jesus
The preaching of John the Baptist
(Mark 1: 4-8)



John [the] Baptist
appeared in the
desert

proclaiming a baptism
of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.



John the Baptist

