

John 2:1-11

At that time: There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding seventy or one hundred litres. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.' So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

John tells us the changing of water into wine was the first of the miracles performed by Jesus. This first miracle was showing that God was now executing a New Covenant since the Old Covenant had been broken by the Israelites time after time. Jesus was showing that the Old Testament prophecy about flowing wine was now fulfilled in him, and in him God is wedded to us. Every time we come here to celebrate the Eucharist wine is changed into the blood of Jesus because God has formed a New Covenant with us. Just as Mary interceded on behalf of that wedded couple in difficulty in Cana, she continues to intercede for us as our Queen. When in need, we, the people of the New Covenant formed in the blood of the Son, can confidently turn to her as we pray, *'Hail holy Queen...*

Second Sunday Yr. C 19th January 2025



This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle, our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his first miracle. This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need and on this, a day of special prayer for world peace, let each and every one of us respond with an abundance of prayer, petition and practical works.

Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times.

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Sion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's salvation and the Kingdom of God. Isaiah prophesied at a time when Jerusalem, though still a functioning city, was spiritually corrupt. Here, he looks forward to the time when Jerusalem is desolate because she has been conquered by the Babylonians, and prophetically speaks comfort and assurance to her discouraged and downcast citizens. The Lord assures them that He will not rest until Jerusalem is restored by a shining righteousness. Isaiah depicts the loving unanimity that characterises Zion and her intimate union with the Lord – which Revelation 19:7 foresees as the marriage of the Lamb. There will come a day when Zion and God's people will know the unbroken presence and love of God, just as a husband and wife should know the presence and love of each other.

Ps 96(95):1-2a. 2b-3. 7-8a. 9-10ac. R3

O sing a new song to the LORD; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

O sing to the LORD; bless his name.

Proclaim his salvation day by day. Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples.

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and power; ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name.

Worship the LORD in holy splendour. O tremble before him, all the earth. Say to the nations, 'The LORD is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Brothers and Sisters: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

God's special gifts are given, through the power of the Holy spirit, for the benefit of others. That is what St Paul says when he lists examples of different gifts of the Holy Spirit and adds that "to each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." We might ask of ourselves, 'What gifts has God given me? Am I using these gifts for some service in the community?' Every day we can pray more and more for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. Let us ask God our Father for an increase in our anointing.

Alleluia, alleluia. God called us through the gospel, so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

(Gospel overleaf)

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished.

Prayer after Communion

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart.