

focus on sunday

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 19th January 2025

Each Sunday liturgy is like a wedding feast in which Jesus is the bridegroom showing his love for us, - his bride - by providing food and drink for our innermost needs.



Water
into Wine



This Sunday we return to what the Church calls 'Ordinary Time' where we read the accounts of Jesus' earthly ministry. However, there is nothing 'ordinary' about this as it is during these weeks that we hear about all the extra-ordinary things that Jesus did during his earthly life. Today's Gospel is one example. John calls this account a sign, something that points us to a deeper reality. In the Jewish tradition, a wedding was a symbol for the Kingdom of God and Jesus regularly used the image of a feast to refer to God's dream for our world.

At this wedding feast we are told that Jesus provides an extraordinary amount of wine for the celebration. "There were six stone water jars... each holding twenty or thirty gallons" (Jn 2:6), a minimum of 500 litres. By today's standards that is just over 600 bottles of wine! Not only is this a huge amount, it is also the best wine the guests have had. Sounds like a great party! But remembering that this wedding event is showing us something of who Jesus is, what the Kingdom of God is like and how God operates in our lives, we might focus on the generosity of Jesus in this story today. When have you experienced great generosity? How have you been generous to others?

The stone jars held the water used in purification rituals. This story is a significant reminder of how Jesus can transform something which has become stale into something that brings joy, new life and invites people to dance and celebrate. As followers of Jesus, we too are called to be agents of generosity, celebration and transformation. What in your life needs transformation today?

"Transformation... begins with the people of God who start turning the things of death into things of life. And the kings and presidents and nations will follow." (Shane Claiborne).

An extract from Jane Mellett and Triona Doherty: *The Deep End – A Journey Through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Luke*, Messenger Publications, 2021



and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

**The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1-3.7-10

R. Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

- O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **[R]**
- Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **[R]**
- Give to the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. **[R]**
- Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **[R]**

SECOND READING I Corinthians 12:4-11

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL John 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants. Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no 'idea where it came from - only the servants who had drawn the water knew - the steward called the bridegroom

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us...**Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Glorify to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.