

Readings Isaiah 62: 1-5; Corinthians 12: 4-11; John 2: 1-11



Fr Michael says:

Cana

The description of the Wedding Feast, gives the people of God, hope for the future at the very lowest time in their life as a nation – Jerusalem and the Temple are no more – the parable in Isaiah encourages them to look forward again, this will be done by using their gifts and talents, under the guidance of the Spirit, as Paul tells the Church in Corinth. Cana will provide the setting for the sign of the old order passing away and the new order is going to be established. John presents us with the person of Mary, who only appears at the start of the Mission of Jesus and at the end, on Calvary, symbolising how she is linked to all her Son's work.

We need to go beyond the actual miracle itself, to a deeper meaning, this is John's technique in the seven signs that He gives of who He is and what He is going to do. The Scriptures seek to paint the relationship that God has with His People, through this image of the Bride and Groom; the joy God feels in our company is shown in the happiness so visible at a wedding! The initial response of God to His People of the return from Exile, is a partial completion of His promises, Jesus is the ultimate fulfilment. The wine running out is the sign of the end of the old order of things – the time has come for a new way of doing things and a new law and spirit. An abundance of wine is a sign used to describe the messianic times, this is seen in the new order, when Jesus gives the new wine – in abundance, as seen by the giving of the size of the jars. We can also detect Jesus' compassion, seen in His concern for the young couple. What happens here is the hallmark for what will happen in His whole Mission to us. Wherever He goes, sorrow is turned to joy – the miracles of healing, the meetings with people in despair, the conversation on the Cross with the terrorist next to Him.

Through all this we see how Jesus wishes to share with us His new life, we are transformed and transfigured by Jesus – we share His very life! This needs to be a reality for us in our lives; otherwise it will remain simply theory. The Hebrew Testament is the hope and the Christian Testament is the fulfilment. Jesus reaches out to us today, through others – that is why Jesus uses the servants to take the new wine to the Master of Ceremonies for the wedding – so as we receive so are we called to give!

Jesus brought the wine of God's love into our world – the old is everywhere made new. For our Marriage Couple the water is changed into wine; for the widow of Nain, her sorrow is turned to joy; Zacchaeus is changed from being selfish to a loving human being; the terrorist on Calvary turns from despair to hope – on Easter Day death is changed into life! "So, Lord, be present with us today and throughout our lives – when through human weakness, the wine of love is found wanting, touch our hearts and strengthen our wills, so that we may taste the wine of unselfish love."