

NEWSLETTER

2 SUNDAY
OF ORDINARY
TIME

The Wedding at Cana in Galilee

In our Gospel from John, we are told of the wedding in Cana in Galilee. Mary attends the wedding and it was through her awareness that Jesus comes to know about the bridegroom's predicament. In this account, Mary is not just the mother of Jesus; she is also representing the Church.

It's through the Christian community that Jesus comes to us. It's through the Church, through our brothers and sisters, that we learn about the life that God in Jesus wants us to enjoy and share with him and others we meet.

There are incidents in the written narrative about Jesus where the fact of who he really is, is signalled in an unmistakable gesture to a large audience. The heavenly manifestations at his baptism in the Jordan are one such incident. So too was the recognition of his lordship at his birth by the wise men from the East. And another- from Jesus himself- is the replenishment of the wine for the large crowd of wedding guests in this passage from John's Gospel. A banquet- and the free flow of wine- was always, for the people of God, a figure of the total fulfilment and happiness that would mark the Lord's final future coming. His overflowing generosity is always available to us.

He reveals his glory, but it's not through TV campaigns or emails, Facebook, or Twitter. He goes to a wedding. He celebrates God's wonderful gift of marriage and reveals the abundance of God's grace. He says, 'My wedding gift to you is two hundred gallons of God's love'!

John speaks of Jesus' miracles as 'signs' because they point to something deeper than the miraculous. They inform us who Jesus is and the purpose of his mission. In the Cana story, Jesus replaces the water for Jewish purifications with more than one hundred gallons of wine! According to Jewish Scriptures, when the Messiah comes there shall be an abundance of new wine, a symbol of God's abundant goodness towards his people. Since Jesus turns so much water into wine which is the best of wines is a 'sign' that the long-awaited Messiah is already here in the midst.

The meaning of this first sign comes at the end: 'his disciples believed in him' There are many clear illusions to the Eucharist here. Table -fellowship is at the heart of Christian life.

Fr. Christopher

This weekend: "As we open the week of prayer for Christian Unity, we pray especially for our shared calling to protect and preserve all life. We pray that our unity and ecumenical efforts on all life issues would inspire the world to join us in defending the lives and rights of all who are vulnerable in our society. Lord hear us".

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading— Isaiah 62: 1-5,
Psalm Isaiah 95; 1-3,7-10, response v 3
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 12; 4-11
Gospel – Luke 2; 1-11

1st Reading— Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10
Psalm 18: 8-10, 15 response John 6;63
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 12; 12-30
Gospel – Luke 1; 1-4; 4;14-21

MASS INTENTIONSJan 15th, 2021

6pm - Holy Souls

Jan 16th, 2021

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Holy Souls

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

Confession on Saturday between
5.15-5.45 pm

or by appointment.

ADORATION

Every Saturday

from 5pm until 5.45

The Prayer for
Synodal Journey,

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in your name.

With You alone to guide us;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us
down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth

and what is right.

All this we ask you,
who are at work

in every place and time,
in the communion

of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

The Message of Cana

The words Mary addresses to the servants come to crown the wedding of Cana: *Do whatever he tells you*. These are her last words recounted by the Gospels; they are the legacy she hands down to us. Today our lady says to us all: 'Whatever Jesus tells you, do it' At this wedding, the new covenant is truly articulated, and to the servants of the Lord, that is to all the Church, is entrusted a new mission: Do whatever he tells you!' To serve the Lord means to listen and to put into practice his Word. For each one of us, to draw from the jar is equivalent to entrusting oneself to the Word of God in order to experience its effectiveness in life. Thus, together with the steward who tasted the water-become-wine; we too can exclaim: *you have kept the best wine till now*. Yes, the Lord continues to reserve the best wine for our salvation, just as it continues to flow from the pierced side of the Lord.

The wedding feast at Cana is more than a simple account of Jesus' first miracle. Like a treasure chest, he guards the secret of his Person and the purpose of his coming: the awaited Groom starts off the wedding that is fulfilled in the Paschal Mystery. At this wedding, Jesus binds his disciples to himself in a new and final covenant. At Cana Jesus' disciples become his family and at Cana, the faith of the Church is born. We are all invited to the wedding feast because the new wine will never run short!

Pope Francis

"To desire means to fuel the fire that burns within us; it drives us to look beyond what is immediate and visible. To desire means embracing life as a mystery that surpasses us, as an ever-present cranny in the wall that beckons us to look into the distance, since life is not just our here and now, but something much greater. It is like a blank canvas that cries out for colour. A great painter, Vincent Van Gogh, once said that his need for God drove him to go outside at night to paint the stars."

Pope Francis

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us... "Word" indicates that Jesus is the eternal Word of the Father, an infinite Word, existing from all time, before all created things; "flesh", on the other hand, indicates precisely our reality, a created, fragile, limited and mortal reality. Before Jesus there were two separate worlds: Heaven opposed to earth, the infinite opposed to the finite, spirit opposed to matter... Jesus is the light of God who has entered into the darkness of the world. Light and darkness. God is light: in him there is no opacity; in us, on the other hand, there is much darkness. Now, with Jesus, light and darkness meet: holiness and guilt, grace and sin. Jesus, the incarnation of Jesus, is the very place of encounter, the encounter between God and humanity, the encounter between grace and sin."

Pope Francis

"Peace "is both a gift from on high and the fruit of a shared commitment." Gift from on high: we need to implore it of Jesus because we are not capable of preserving it. We can truly build peace only if we have peace in our hearts, only if we receive it from the Prince of peace. But peace is also our commitment: it asks us to take the first step, it demands concrete actions. It is built by being attentive to the least, by promoting justice, with the courage to forgive thus extinguishing the fire of hatred. And it needs a positive outlook as well, one that always sees, in the Church as well as in society, not the evil that divides us, but the good that unites us! Getting depressed or complaining is useless. We need to roll up our sleeves to build peace. At the beginning of this year, may the Mother of God, the Queen of Peace, obtain harmony in our hearts and in the entire world."

Pope Francis

An Exorcist's 'Recipe' For Spiritually Protecting Your Family

Fr. Chad Ripperger gave the following advice. Parents have to have a habitual life of prayer. When the temptations occur-they have the prayer life to fall back on. Here then are his four tips:

1. pray the Angelus

'One of the things we found the most effective in creating a good atmosphere is to say the Angelus at 6 am, noon, and 6 pm

2. Pray for the protection of your children

'pray for the protection of your children on a daily basis.

3. Pray to Our Lady of Sorrows

'Ask Our Lady of Sorrows, specifically under that if there is anything going on. Such as stuff that is hidden. This would be a way for parents to come to the knowledge of it.

4. Consecrating the family and the family's problems.

Consecrate the family and the specific problems that it has to deal with. Strengthening the family and rooting out the defects and the problems

To Our Lady.

Say the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle!

"The journey of life and faith demands a deep desire and inner zeal. Sometimes we live in a spirit of a "parking lot"; we stay parked, without the impulse of desire that carries us forward. We do well to ask: where are we on our journey of faith? Have we been stuck all too long, nestled inside a conventional, external and formal religiosity that no longer warms our hearts and changes our lives?"

Pope Francis

Dear Friends,

Thank you, for all your cards, gifts, and the liquid nourishments I received over Christmas. It's much appreciated. May this year 2022 be filled with joy and peace for you and all your dear ones. God bless you all.

First Holy Communion

Dear Parents,

We require a couple of parents to help with the preparation of our young people for First Holy Communion. If you could help please see Hajini who would brief you on what's needed. Many Thanks,

Fr Christopher

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Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall
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Fr Christopher Silva

Parish Priest,

Mrs Katherine Woznicka

Parish Secretary

The office may be contacted by phone:

Monday to Friday 9am-2pm

Closed on Bank Holidays

Those who might be in Need

If you are aware of anyone who might be in need at this difficult time, do let the parish office know, by giving their details after having consulted with them. We can assist with food vouchers and one of our neighbours are willing to help with groceries. Do let us know if anyone might need help. Thank you, Fr Christopher

ALTAR SERVERS

If you have made your First Holy Communion, and would like to be an Altar Server, could you submit your details to the parish office. We hope to commence training initially after the 11am Mass. Lauren, Joseph and Izabella will conduct your training. Thank you . *Fr Christopher*

BAPTISMS can happen now on a Saturday morning.

Parents are asked to come to see Fr Christopher first. Next, they must attend a Baptism Formation Program (during pregnancy or after birth) – The **next baptismal courses will be on 23 February at 7pm on zoom**. Please, drop an email to the office if you are interested, also you have to book your appointment with Fr Chris. Later, we will need your email address to invite you to join the session on Zoom. Before you do the course you need to come to the office to buy a baptism pack (£10).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH. If you can spare an hour or two monthly to help us to keep the church clean, please, contact the office to discuss details. Thank you.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £264.34 envelopes: £319.00

contactless collection last weekend: £160.00

total: **£743.34**

Standing orders in December **£3257.00**

Crib Collection; 165.00

As a charity we rely on your donations only. As you have not been allowed to come to the church, we only were receiving donations set up as standing orders. We will be grateful for your financial support when you are back.

Your new sets of gift aided envelopes are available for collection before/after any mass or from the office.

Alternatively you could send your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

Thank you for your Generosity

WRCDT Charity No: 233699