

MARY CONFIDENTLY TRUSTS JESUS
THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA – 16 JANUARY 2022



The Wedding Feast at Cana, c. 1815 by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld | public domain

COVID-19

This is a critical time in our history, during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Trust and lack of trust, fear, compassion, confusion, disappointment, patience and impatience, frustration, appreciation, knowledge and service have all been part of our journey.

Let us pray now to God through the intercession of Saint Edith Stein during this Pandemic.

[COVID Prayer FOR THE INTERCESSION OF SAINT EDITH STEIN IN 2022](#)

[pause and pray]

UKRAINE

In recent days Ukraine has been in the world spotlight.

Let us pray now to God for peace and security for the people of Ukraine.

[pause and pray]

TRUSTING IN ANOTHER

Many years ago, I was asked by a religious brother in Queensland to introduce him to the local bishop in an overseas diocese.

His Congregation was offering to set up a community of Brothers to live and help the people in the diocese in whatever way the bishop desired.

The model was not one of service delivery, but of community development.

It was not about handouts but was about ways to empower the local community.

The appointment was organised, and we turned up at the allotted time.

We met and exchanged greetings and spoke generally about life.

Then the bishop concluded the meeting without discussing whether he supported or not, the possibility of the congregation coming to his diocese and country.

The Brother looked puzzled and was going to ask for an answer.

I smiled, shook my head and indicated that we leave gracefully.

I wasn't sure what was happening, but I trusted the bishop who I knew.

We could wait to see what would happen.

The bishop escorted us out of his meeting room, closed its door and spoke quietly in the corridor.

He explained that there was a listening device in the room, placed there by a foreign intelligence operative from the power that had invaded their land and occupied them.

He explained that all Australians were considered suspect by the occupiers.

No Australian community would be accepted by the occupying power.

The bishop explained that an international community might be accepted.

He welcomed the future presence of a small international community of Brothers, and explained briefly what to do next.

It was a short and precise briefing by the bishop, as it might be considered suspicious if we talked too long in the corridor.

Sometimes we don't know what to do, but we trust the people who do know.

We recognize their experience and follow their advice.

We follow their timing and their local knowledge.

In today's Gospel passage, Mary sees a need and trusts in Jesus to find a way forward to meet that need.

Let us explore the passage together.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 2:1-11

Early in his ministry, at Cana in Galilee,

the hour of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus had not yet come.

Yet Jesus still responded to the request of Mary.

*“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
When the wine gave out,
the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’*

And Jesus said to her,

***‘Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?
My hour has not yet come.’***

His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ “

MARY CONFIDENTLY TRUSTS JESUS

Mary knew the wine had run out.

Mary trusted Jesus.

She went to Jesus and trusted that he would act.

Then she instructed the servants to do as Jesus said.

The servants trusted Mary, and followed her advice

for them to do whatever Jesus told them.

*When was the last time we expressed our trust in God?
Was it earlier this morning or yesterday?
Are we trusting God now as we seek a way forward?*

[pause and reflect]

Let us continue our reading of the Gospel.

*“Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’
And they filled them up to the brim.
He said to them,
‘Now draw some out and take it to the chief steward.’
So they took it. “*

Jesus enabled the process to resume as the servants sought the advice of the steward. The servants are now able to continue their role in serving the guests at the wedding celebration.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,

‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.’

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.”

Today, as we discern our way ahead as servants of God, we need to be continually in tune with the Holy Spirit, and not to go our own way. As in the Gospel, we need to listen and act.

USING OUR IMAGINATION IN PRAYER

In the written account, we miss some of the visual and audio details

- of the tone of voice of Mary and Jesus.
(we pause and imagine their voices)
- their eye contact and facial signs.
(we pause and gaze at their faces)
- their use of hands and posture.
(we pause and watch their interaction)
- the bodily expressions of the servants
(we pause and imagine ourselves in their place)

In whatever way she asked Jesus, she knew that he would act.

THE STONE JARS OF OUR LIVES

When we, like the servants at Cana, listen and act on the direction of Jesus, the stone jars become a symbol of our work.

The servants, like us, fill the stone jars.

Note how the servants fulfil *two* directions of Jesus –

1. they fill the jars with water, -
2. and they take some to the chief steward to taste.

But only Jesus can turn it into wine.

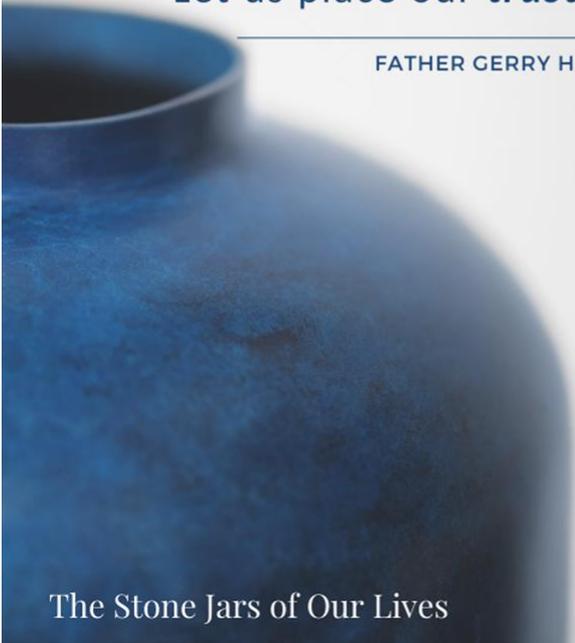
No matter how busy we think we are, the stone jars remain only water-filled, unless we follow Jesus and ask in prayer that he turns our lives into lives of grace and meaning.

Let us place our trust in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011622.cfm>



“No matter how busy we think we are,
the stone jars remain only water-filled,
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Let us place our **trust** in Jesus Christ.”

FATHER GERRY HEFFERAN

The Stone Jars of Our Lives

www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com