

‘ONLY JESUS CAN TURN THE WATER OF OUR LIVES INTO WINE OF GRACE’

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C - 20th January 2018

LISTENING TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 2:1-11

Today we listen to the well-known Gospel passage below.

It is the first of the public signs of Jesus in the Gospel of John.

The hour of Jesus had not yet come.

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.’

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.*

*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.’

We are told what happened after this miracle:

‘After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother,

his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there for a few days.’

Today, as we discern our way ahead as church,

we need to continually be in tune with the Holy Spirit, and not go our own way.

As in the Gospel, we need to listen and act.

Mary knew the wine had run out.

She went to Jesus and trusted that he would act.
Then she instructed the servants to do as Jesus said.

In the written account, we miss the details of the tone of voice of Mary and Jesus.
We miss the eye contact and the facial signs, use of hands and posture.
In whatever way she asked Jesus, she knew that he would act.

SOME KEY CHURCH EVENTS AND CONCERNS

Some keys events and concerns in the church require our attention.

Among them are

- The current Australian consultation process towards the **Plenary Council** in 2020.
- The meeting of church leaders in the Vatican Feb 21st-24th on **sexual abuse**, and the new international responses and strategies needed.
- The recent symposium at the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture was on “**The Future of Women Deacons**”. Two of the Pope’s study commission members, Professor Phyllis Zagano, and Fr Bernard Pottier, S.J., were interviewed and it is available to view at America Media – [back ground information and video](#).
The Commission’s report was submitted last July.
- **Following on from last October’s Youth Synod**, its recommendations, and how we need to be more inclusive.
[\[Final Document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment\]](#)
- **The review of each diocese in Australia** in June 2019 when the Australian Bishops go to Rome to meet with Pope Francis and the Dicasteries.
- Studying and implementing the papal teaching ‘*Laudato Si’ – On Care for Our Common Home*’ on the **Earth as our Common Home**.
Our own parish *Care for Creation group* [website](#).
- Listening to and working with **our Catholic Indigenous Sisters and Brothers** on the ongoing development of our Archdiocesan Reconciliation Action Plan, the implementation of the national Catholic Indigenous strategies of NATSICC to be announced soon, and studying the Uluru Statement from the Heart.
[\[Uluru Statement from the Heart\]](#)
- In our own efforts to be **more aware of mental health issues** and how we as a community respond.
- Challenging the causes of all forms of **violence in church, family, society and media**.
- This year in Australia brings a deeper awareness and justice through the [Royal Commission on changes to aged care provision](#).

- Analysis of our church, and **who misses out or is forgotten**, when we lose sight of our mission in Jesus, and instead become focused only on our agency, or parish or ministry.
- In the light of Luke's Gospel parable of the Good Samaritan, and Matthew's Gospel image of the Last Judgement, we review our Christian response to **Asylum seekers, Refugees and the Homeless**.
- Facing the challenges of the **drug trade**, and the **devastation** to people's lives.
- **Change of culture in our church** in Australia and internationally, in the way of transparency, accountability and inclusivity.
- **Time and space to pray.**

There are other concerns and events you might like to add.

Please inform the **Plenary Council** team at <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

THE SYMBOL OF WATER INTO WINE

In the Gospel wedding in the passage we have read, the best wine is to come, if we, like the servants at Cana, listen and act on the direction of Jesus.

The stone jars become a symbol of our work.

These days, in society,

it is often heard the response 'I am busy; or "I am so busy'

The servants, like us, fill the stone jars.

Note how the servants fulfil two directions of Jesus

- they fill the jars with water,
- 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 pray.

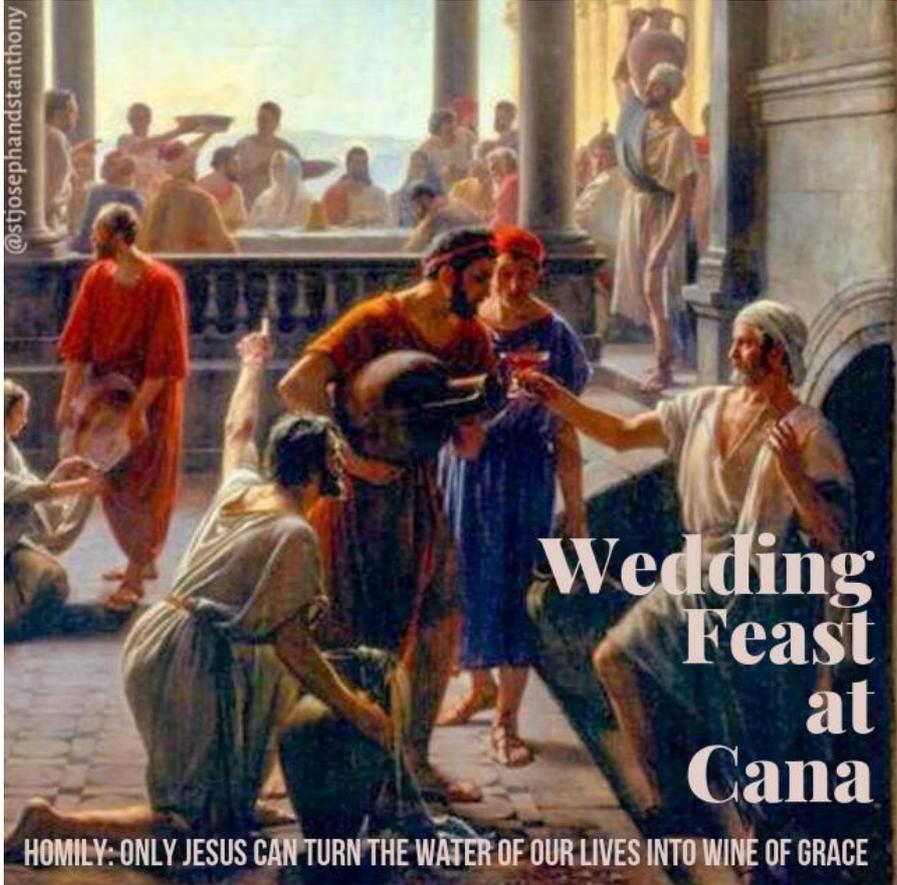
Fr. Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/012019.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook20012019>]

Image next page: Wedding at Cana by the artist Carl Bloch 1870

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Wedding Feast at Cana

HOMILY: ONLY JESUS CAN TURN THE WATER OF OUR LIVES INTO WINE OF GRACE