

TO THE Heights

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Mysteries of Light, Medjugorje: Beemweij, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 62:1-5

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 95(96):1-3, 7-10

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel:

John 2:1-11

"Do whatever He tells you"

Game Changers

The Catholic Church's Liturgical Calendar is crammed full of inspirational saints, or as we like to call them, Game Changers!

You can check out our other Game Changer resources on our website: www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry.



17 January St Antony, Abbot

20 January St Sebastian, Martyr (Patron of Athletes)

21 January St Agnes, Martyr

22 January St Vincent, Deacon and Martyr



Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading.
Don't have a Bible? No worries, click the bible image!



1. Where does this wedding take place?
2. Mary only says two things in this Gospel: what are they?
3. What does Jesus mean by His "Hour"? John uses this phrase many times in his Gospel. Check these references: John 8:20, John 12:23, John 13:1, John 17:1
4. Numeracy: If Jesus changed 6 jars of 20-30 litres, and there are approx 4 litres in a gallon, how many bottles of wine does that work out as (standard bottle is 750ml)?
5. Why would people serve the best wine first?
6. What does this miracle teach about the generosity of Jesus and His Kingdom?



Gospel Reflection: DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU



After a busy Christmas season, we find ourselves, in our own lives and in Church liturgy, back in Ordinary Time. However, there is nothing ordinary in our walk with Jesus. The Church gives us this season of growth (symbolised by the green vestments the priest now wears), to reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus as a time to deepen our faith and discover more and more who this Jesus is.

The wedding feast at Cana is a familiar story, but let's stop to reflect on some details. Jesus works His first miracle in the heart of a family, at a wedding. Jesus wants to be at the heart of our families too. In Jewish culture, weddings lasted for several days, and to run out of wine so early would ruin the reputation of the couple, and the scandal would haunt them for the rest of their married lives.

With this in mind, let's ask ourselves:

- Who noticed the problem, even before the couple themselves did?
- Who went straight to Jesus?
- Who trusted implicitly that Jesus could and would help them?
- Who told the servants to obey: "Do whatever He tells you."

Mary. Mary, the greatest intercessor and most loving Mother, who is always caring, always watching, always noticing. Maybe we find ourselves running on empty after Christmas; maybe our New Year's Resolutions have already fallen flat; maybe we find ourselves facing all the same struggles and difficulties every morning, even seemingly impossible tasks, and we do not know where to turn or how to begin to face them. Remember that Mary has already noticed. In the apparition at Rue de Bac, St Catherine Labouré noticed that not all the jewels on Our Lady's rings were radiating light and she questioned her about this. Our Lady explained that the light which emanated from some of the jewels symbolised the graces that people asked her for, but many people did not ask for her help or intercession, and so some of the jewels remained unlit.

In our lives too, Our Lady will always intercede for us. No problem is too small or great to escape her notice. Let's make sure she's always a welcome guest in our homes. Not only that, but Jesus showed in this Gospel that His generous heart will not just provide the bare minimum for our needs, but abundantly more than we could ever require, if we just allow Him to work in our lives. "Do whatever He tells you."



"Mary notes our needs before we ourselves feel them." Archbishop Fulton Sheen

MARY NOTICES

The story of the Wedding Feast at Cana might seem like a simple miracle at first, but digging through the details teaches us a lot. Jesus worked His first miracle at a wedding, in the heart of a family. That's significant, as families have a special place in the heart of God. Jesus was asked to work this miracle by His Mother Mary. It was her intercession that highlighted the couple's need. We can always go to Mary with our prayers and ask for her intercession too! She asked the servants to do whatever Jesus told them, because she had full faith in His power (just as she herself said yes to being the Mother of God at the Annunciation, and was always obedient to God's will). Jesus' apparent hesitation was not because He didn't want to help the couple out of an embarrassing situation. Rather, this would be the first miracle He had worked and would in effect be announcing His mission as Messiah. His "Hour" refers to His passion, death and resurrection. Once His mission was announced, His journey towards Jerusalem and His passion would begin, both for Jesus and also for His Mother, so this decision at Cana was a significant one.

TEACHER'S CORNER

Fire in the South: a Catholic Charismatic Outreach Movement to enable people to encounter the personal love of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. companionship, music, sharing, prayer, the odd funny story, sacred scripture & adoration. Every Wednesday, 8 - 9.15pm (Re-starting in Mid-January)
Zoom ID: 86141473152 Password: FIRE

Introduction to Theology of the Body

Mondays 7.30 - 9pm, Feb 14th - April 4th.

Foyer of Charity, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford. Registration is essential. Please contact Helen at 086 1678027 or email hellywilliams@gmail.com

Got a Minute? New YouTube Series with Bishop Phonsie Cullinan on the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore YouTube Channel weekly



Young Person's Prayer



Holy Spirit, lead me to those I can help, inspire me who to pray for and give me courage to act and speak in the way I should. Mother Mary, be a mother to me today and always. Show me what it is I need to do today to draw closer to Jesus and to let Him be glorified in my life. Amen

TUNE OF THE WEEK

Our God

Chris Tomlin



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:



This week, try to be like Mary, attentive to the needs of others around you. If there are areas where you can help, do so, quietly and humbly. pray for the people you encounter who need help, asking our lady to intercede for them with her Son. Watch - pray - act. In that way you can be a witness to Christ in their lives, maybe in an unseen way. Ask Our Lady to guide you!

WATCH: VIDEO: The Wedding Feast at Cana from "The Chosen"



CHECK IT OUT: ALPHA IRELAND



Alpha Story - Waterford & Lismore Diocese

Alpha is an 11 week course exploring the basics of the Christian faith, allowing guests to explore life, faith, and meaning in an open and welcoming environment. Last year alone, more than 5,000 people in Ireland experienced Alpha, either in person or online, in addition to millions more in over 100 countries around the globe. If you have ever wondered about the purpose and meaning of your life, or if you are looking to dive into faith, or for a way to engage friends or fellow parishioners in faith, check out the Alpha Suite of Resources!

- ASCEND YOUTH MINISTRY (DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE) -

"Do whatever He tells you!"



Water to Wine

"Mary notes our needs before we ourselves feel them."

Archbishop Fulton Sheen

CHECK OUT THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS ABOUT MARY'S INTERCESSION AT CANA CCC 2618



CAN YOU NAME ANY MIRACLES JESUS WORKED IN THE GOSPELS? BREAK THEM INTO CATEGORIES: HEALING, FOOD MIRACLES, NATURE (OR WEATHER) MIRACLES



FOOD

HEALING

NATURE



WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS WORKED MIRACLES? WHAT DID HE WANT TO SHOW?

WATCH THIS EXTRACT FROM "THE CHOSEN" SEASON 1, EPISODE 5, FROM 58:19 TO 1:13:08 AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

(if you have time watch the whole episode from 20:37)



Context: Jewish Wedding feasts at the time of Jesus lasted several days, and if extra guests decided to show up, it is not surprising that the wine ran out quickly at this wedding. To run out of wine would cause huge embarrassment for the wedding couple and also their family, and likely haunt them for the rest of their lives.

Remember also, Jesus has not revealed his mission as the Messiah yet. Cana was his first miracle.

Why do you think Mary went to Jesus with the problem of the wine?



Why do you think Jesus was hesitant to work a miracle there and then?

What would that mean in the bigger picture for Him? What would it mean in the bigger picture for Mary, too?

What did Mary say to the servants to show she had full faith that Jesus would rescue the situation?



RESEARCH: WHAT WAS THE WATER IN PURIFICATION JARS NORMALLY USED FOR?

What instruction did Jesus give to the servants about the jars?

Jesus' action was similar to a stone mason cutting a limestone block that day, symbolically: how so?



DID YOU KNOW? EACH STONE JAR HELD 20-30 GALLONS - HOW MUCH WAS THAT IN LITRES?

Why was the Steward so astonished by the wine he tasted at the end?

How is the character of "Doubting Thomas" portrayed in this event? What does Jesus challenge Him to do, to expand his view of?

WATER TO WINE

JOHN 2:1-11

The scene where Jesus dips His hand into the jar and lets the wine flow from His hand - what later scene in Jesus' life could this symbolise? (Think about Good Friday)

What can we learn from the quality and the abundance of the wine that Jesus gave? What is He willing to do for us in our lives and our needs?



Now Read John 2:1-11



The story of the Wedding Feast at Cana might seem like a simple miracle at first, but digging through the details teaches us a lot. Jesus worked His first miracle at a wedding, in the heart of a family. That's significant, as families have a special place in the heart of God. Jesus was asked to work this miracle by His Mother Mary. It was her intercession that highlighted the couple's need. We can always go to Mary with our prayers and ask for her intercession too! She asked the servants to do whatever Jesus told them, because she had full faith in His power (*just as she herself said yes to being the Mother of God at the Annunciation, and was always obedient to God's will*). Jesus' apparent hesitation was not because He didn't want to help the couple out of an embarrassing situation. Rather, this would be the first miracle He had worked and would in effect be announcing His mission as Messiah. His "Hour" refers to His passion, death and resurrection. Once His mission was announced, His journey towards Jerusalem and His passion would begin, both for Jesus and also for His Mother, so this decision at Cana was a significant one.



Imagine yourself as one of the characters in this Gospel scene. Who would you be? What would you notice? How would you react? Spend time reflecting on the fact Jesus gave the couple not just any wine, but incredible wine, and He gave them an abundance, even more than was needed. What do you need Jesus to do for you?



MISSION!

THIS WEEK, TRY TO BE LIKE MARY, ATTENTIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS AROUND YOU. IF THERE ARE AREAS WHERE YOU CAN HELP, DO SO, QUIETLY AND HUMBL Y. PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE YOU ENCOUNTER WHO NEED HELP, ASKING OUR LADY TO INTERCEDE FOR THEM WITH HER SON. WATCH - PRAY - ACT. IN THAT WAY YOU CAN BE A WITNESS TO CHRIST IN THEIR LIVES, MAYBE IN AN UNSEEN WAY. ASK OUR LADY TO GUIDE YOU!



PRAYER TIME!

Each morning this week, pray:
Holy Spirit, lead me to those I can help, inspire me who to pray for and give me courage to act and speak in the way I should. Mother Mary, be a mother to me today and always. Show me what it is I need to do today to draw closer to Jesus and to let Him be glorified in my life. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON JESUS' MIRACLES



- [Our God - Chris Tomlin](#)
- [Empty my Hands - Holy Family Mission](#)
- [Miracles - Jesus Culture](#)
- [He turned the water into wine - Johnny Cash](#)
- [Miracle - Sara Groves](#)
- [What Faith Can Do - Kutless](#)
- [God of Miracles - Chris McClarney](#)
- [Waymaker - Leeland](#)

Click the links for the YouTube videos to listen to some suggestions!



HFM Testimony: Watch Róisín's story of how letting Jesus into her life transformed her



The Second Luminous Mystery: The Wedding Feast at Cana (Fr Daniel O'Reilly)