

Gospel John 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water', and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.'



This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

RECORDING OF CEREMONIES IN THE CATHEDRAL: Families wishing to have ceremonies recorded on the Cathedral webcam e.g. family funeral or wedding must contact a member of the Parish team at least 24 hours in advance of the ceremony. The recordings will remain on the Parish Website for one month. If a family wish to hold on to the recording for longer they must download the ceremony from the parish website to their own computer.

COELIAC HOSTS: Parishioners wishing to receive a Gluten free coeliac Holy Communion host at Mass are invited to come forward to receive the host from the Celebrant. The Celebrant or the Minister with the large Ciborium, in the absence of Fr. Tony, will have the coeliac host.

Box of Parish Envelopes 2022: Thanks to everyone who have distributed envelopes to date. Volunteers are required for the following remaining areas: Kiltybegs, Knockloughlin, Kiltyreher, Clonrollagh, Cartron Big, Augharickard, Lisadowling, Clonahussey, Clonahard and Dun Darragh. Please contact the parish office or the Sacristy.

TO MARK CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK there will be a short Ecumenical Prayer Service led Rev Simon Scott, Church of Ireland and the Rev Christiaan Snell of the Methodist Church, in the Cathedral on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Reflection on John 2:1-11.

Today's Gospel is a very familiar one: the wedding at Cana. Mary, Jesus, and the disciples had been invited to a wedding. After a time, Mary noticed that the supply of wine was running out. Mary went to Jesus and said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus replied to her comment in a harsh way. He said, "Woman, how does this concern me?" He then added, "My hour has not yet come."

Mary went to the servers and told them, "Do whatever he tells you." after filling the jars with water, Jesus changed it into wine. The head waiter went to the bridegroom and praised him for serving the "good" wine so late in the day. Typically, hosts would serve the "good wine" at the beginning of the celebration. However, later in the day, many hosts would serve inferior wine since many of the guests had consumed a great deal of wine. Most likely the guests would not notice the difference in the quality of the wine.

This sign was the beginning of many signs Jesus would perform during his ministry. These signs revealed Jesus' concern and care for the lowly. The signs also clearly spoke of his power and glory. Thus, the depth of the belief the disciples had in Jesus deepened.

Have you ever received a sign that Jesus was with you? Do you look for signs that Jesus is present to you? It may be as simple as getting an unexpected phone call or an email from an old friend. Perhaps it is having some alone time when you can relax, listen to music, read a novel, or take some quiet time with God.

The reality is that Jesus is always with us. Most often, we are the ones who are not present to Jesus. Today, be attentive to signs you receive that may indicate that Jesus is with you. If this happens, just relax and enjoy his presence.

Monday, 17th January. St. Anthony, Abbot
8.00am: Leo Branigan (A) 10.00am: Michael Shiels (A)

Tuesday, 18th January.
8.00am: Baby Fionnan McCormack (Birthday Remembrance)
10.00am: Brian Flynn (A)

Wednesday, 19th January.
8.00am: No Intention
10.00am: Patrick and Nan Kelly (A)

Thursday, 20th January. St. Fabian and St. Sebastian
8.00am: Special Intention
10.00am: John and Kathleen Morrissey (A)
7.30pm Curry: No Intention.

Friday, 21st January. St. Agnes of Rome
8.00am: Pauline and Tommy Dowd (A)
10.00am: Gertie Sheahan (A)
7.30pm: Brian McGinnity (Month's Mind)

Saturday, 22nd January. St. Vincent, Deacon
8.00am: Peggy and Kathleen Maguire and DFM
10.00am: Christy and Maureen Delaney (A)

Sunday, 23rd January. Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
7.30pm (Vigil): John Gilchrist (A)
8.00am: Francis Curran (Months' Mind)
10.00am: Deceased members of the Gaffney and Quinn families
11.30am: *Shared:* Jim and Ann Butler (A). Pat Fanning (A).
Mary & Kevin Fitzmaurice & grandparents Gerard & Georgina (A)
1.00pm: Annie, James and Angela Donnelly (A)
6.00pm: Kathleen O'Hara (A)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank each one of you most sincerely for your continued generous contributions to our weekly collections. The amount received in the Offertory Collection for last weekend was €4,210.00. Feast of the Epiphany (6th January) €1,540.00. **CHRISTMAS DUES** amounted to €26,200.00.

REST IN PEACE: Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the souls of Anthony Dodd, Wembley, London, whose funeral will take place next Friday 21st January at 11am in the Cathedral, burial afterwards in Ballymacormack cemetery. Also Peter O'Hara, late of O'Connell Terrace, who died recently in Coventry.

PARISH STATISTICS FOR 2021: Baptisms: 110. Marriages: 18.
First Communions: 169. Confirmations: 154. Deaths: 82.

MASS IN ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, CURRY: Mass will be celebrated in St. Anne's Church, Curry on Thursday evening at 7.30pm.

CATHEDRAL CIRCLE: The weekly draw for the Cathedral Circle takes place every Monday evening at 6.30pm. €650 in prize money every week. Tickets are available in many of the local shops in Longford or by annual subscription.

ST MEL'S CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL wish to thank most sincerely the many people, organisations and businesses who contributed so generously to the recent annual appeal taken up prior to Christmas. Your very generous donations enables the Conference to continue to provide assistance to people within the Longford and greater Longford town area. If you are in need of assistance, please contact SVP on Free-phone: 1800 67 77 77.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP): Become part of the largest and oldest voluntary charitable organisation in Ireland. The greatest strength in this organisation is its volunteers, because volunteers know the issues in the community and can address immediate needs as well as helping families and individuals, young and old, move towards self-sufficiency and equal opportunity through friendship and support. Offering a little help at the right time can give people hope for the future. Sharing your time and your skills can change lives forever. We visit homes in and around Longford, providing families and individuals with essential support; with food, energy and education costs. The families and individuals we visit are not just those on social welfare; they include people in low-paid employment, the self-employed and people in good employment with debts that they just cannot handle. If you are in a position to give a little of your time each week to continue the work of St. Mel's Conference of St Vincent de Paul please fill in the application form on line at: svp.ie/get-involved/volunteer or talk to any committee member.