

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 2:1-11

1. The story is a story of abundance, the abundance of the blessings God gives us. How have you been aware of the abundance of God's blessings? Let the memories lead you to prayer of thanks and praise for the times in your life when that joy and fulfilment have been very real to you.

2. John uses a number of images (marriage, wine, feast, etc.) to symbolise the abundance of God's love. Do you have a favourite image, or metaphor, that reminds you of the abundance of God's love and blessings?

3. The *hour* of Jesus had not yet come when the glory of God would be fully revealed. Even so, something of the glory of God was revealed in the sign that took place. For us, also, the revelation of the full glory of God lies in the future, but we do get glimpses along the way. Recall some of the signs that have revealed to you something of the glory of God, e.g., nature, art, friendship, etc.

4. Mary/Jesus. It is interesting to note that despite the apparent rebuff, Mary is the first person in the narrative to show (at the level of the action of the story) that the correct response to the presence of Jesus is to trust in him,. When have you trusted in the word of Jesus like that? What relationships do you have that you can trust like that? Do you recall times when your trust was rewarded even when you had initially been disappointed?

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THE DEEP END: 'The First of His Signs'

This is a familiar story, rich in symbolism. It is the first 'sign' recorded in John's Gospel.

These 'signs' in John's Gospel are miracle stories but John prefers to use the term 'sign,' as they point to something far more than just the miracle itself. John used these signs to encourage belief in his readers but they are also an invitation for us to understand something more of how God operates in our lives. Jesus transforms the water which would be used for the Jewish purification rite. He takes something used to give life to people, and transforms it into something which brings joy, celebration and new life to the party. There are many messages we can take from this account: the ability of God to transform our lives, to transform that which is dead and stale. The abundance of wine (approx. 700 litres!) is a significant reminder of the abundance of God's love for us, beyond our comprehension. We could also focus on the role of Mary in this Gospel – she is the one who notices, she is attentive to the needs of those around her and brings this concern to Jesus. We might pray today that we too may be able to notice, to see, to intervene when we are faced with situations that need attention. This may be a situation of injustice or it may be a situation where something in our own lives or in our church has become dead and stale and is in desperate need of new wine.

Jane Mellett

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CATHOLIC PAPERS: The Irish Catholic newspaper is available at the back of the church. Please put payment in the box.

Published by the Parish Pastoral Council

DAY OF PRAYER:

St. John's Rest & Care Centre, Knock Shrine on Saturday 2nd February from 10.00am – 5.00pm. Holy Mass, Rosary, Adoration, Talks, given by Fr. Killian Byrne.

Contact Helen: 086 1678027;

hellywilliams@gmail.com

www.foyerofcharity.ie

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION :

This weekend: Saturday 19 January at 6.00 pm Mass - Boys and their families from the JFK school.

Sunday 20 January at 10.00 am Mass - Girls and their families from the Salesian Primary School.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION MASS:

Saturday 26th January at 6.00 pm - Boys and their families from the JFK school.

Sunday 27th January at 10.00 am - Girls and their families from the Salesian Primary School.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK:

There will be a special service in St. Augustine's Church on Thursday 24th January at 7.30 pm. We hope to welcome a number of people from other Christian denominations and Fellowship to a service of Prayer, Readings, Song and Silence in St. Augustine's to be followed by some simple hospitality. We warmly invite you to attend this special service as we pray together for Christian unity.

PILGRIMAGE FATIMA AND LISBON:

Ex Dublin (last remaining seats for Feast of St. Anthony 9th /14th June 2019. Full Board €675 pps, single supplement €32. Contact James Treacy 061-921470

EASTER/ROME/SAN GIOVANNI: 15th/22nd April with Papal Ceremonies in Rome for Easter period – 7 nights €995 pps. Payments can be made in instalments, contact James Treacy on 061-921470

REFLECTION 'I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves, one above the other and the taller we grow the easier we can reach them. Now I find that God's gifts are on shelves and the lower we stoop the more we get.' **F.B.Meyer**

PARISH WEBSITE

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

Fr. Des McAuliffe P.P. Tel: 061 324825

Fr. Tom. Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733

Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at Church Sacristy Tel: 061 325288

Office Hours: 09:00 - 09:45 Weekdays
09:00 - 12.30 Sunday

MASS TIMES: Weekends and Holy Days

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00

Saturday 09:45 : Prayer Service

BAPTISMS: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 19 th	18:00	Gordon Holmes (A) Bobby & Nuala Holmes (A) Molly Carroll (A) Peter Meehan (1 st A) Christy Hallissey (A)
Sun 20 th	10:00	Emilie O Sullivan (1 st A) Michael Vaughan (A)
	11:30	Patrick & Byrdie Fitzpatrick (A) Liam O'Shanahan (A) Bridget & John Hartnett (A) Dec. Mem of the Hartnett & Cregan Families
Mon 21 st	10:00	Annette Griffin (A)
Tues 22 nd	10:00	Debbie Brosnan (A)
Wed 23 rd	10:00	
Thurs 24 th	10:00	
Fri 25 th	10:00	Diana Gleeson Walsh (A)
Sat 26 th	09:45	Prayer Service
	18:00	Eddie Gavin (A) Ger O'Donovan (A) Shane Courtney (A)
Sun 27 th	10:00	Liam Aherne (A)
	11:30	

