

Parish of Ribbleton

St. Mary Magdalene (SMM) The Ascension (ASC) -Longsands (LS)

Sunday 16th January
Epiphany 2
The Wedding at Cana

Alleluia! Alleluia!
God has called us through the Gospel
to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

FIRST READING (Isaiah 62:1-5)

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's
sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines
out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.
The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your
glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth
of the Lord will bestow.
You will be a crown of splendour in the Lord's hand, a
royal diadem in the hand of your God.
No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land
Desolate.
But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah;
for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will
be married.
As a young man marries a young woman, so will your
Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his
bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 36:5-10)

The response to the psalm is
How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, Lord, preserve both people and animals. **R/**

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast in the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights. **R/**

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.
Continue your love to those who know you,
your righteousness to the upright in heart.' **R/**

SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to dumb idols. Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,

to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,

and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

GOSPEL (John 2:1-11)

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee.

Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'

'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied.

'My hour has not yet come.'

His mother said to the servants,

'Do whatever he tells you.'

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.

Jesus said to the servants,

'Fill the jars with water';

so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them,

'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine.

He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

Then he called the bridegroom aside and said,

'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.'

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.



Sunday Reflection

Epiphany is about Jesus being revealed to the world as someone special.

Our celebration of Epiphany began with the wise men and Jesus revealed to them as 'The king of the Jews', a title used by Herod but kept by the Jews for the Messiah, the Christ, the Holy one of God.

Last week in our readings Jesus was revealed as the Son of God through his baptism and through the prophet Isaiah he was revealed as the Suffering Servant.

This week is the third part of the manifestations of Jesus is revealed as the Son of God by performing his first miracle at a wedding.

This reminds me of a story:

On returning home after attending church one Sunday a small boy was asked by his mother:

"What was your lesson about in Sunday School today?"

The boy replied,

"Our lesson was about when Jesus went to a wedding and made water into wine."

"And what did you learn from that story?" his mother asked.

After thinking for a moment, the boy answered,

"If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there!"

You know, that is pretty good advice.

It is a good thing to have Jesus not only at our wedding services, but it is good to have Jesus in every part of our lives.

The reading from John's gospel today is about how the wine ran out at the wedding in Cana.

It shows us how people are beginning to respect and put their trust in Jesus.

We see this by how Jesus' mother, Mary, asks Jesus to do something about it – and he does in a miraculous way.

We also see how his disciples are part of that by being obedient to what he asks of them.

The reading ends with these words in verse 11:

'This the first of His miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee.

He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.'

Once the disciples had seen what Jesus could do and realised who he was, they could put their faith in him.

You know when something good is happening because people want to be part of it.

The wedding at Cana has much to teach about when we too find ourselves in difficult times and situations: about how we need to learn to trust the Lord completely.

Even though we may have had faith in Jesus many years, situations will arise that test that trust to the limit.

But as revealed to us and those around Jesus in his life and ministry, He is the Son of God, and he will not fail us.

He knows about every situation and trial that we face, and he has promised to be with us.

It is good to have Jesus in every part of our lives, to be present in what we are doing, making good things happen so people want to be part of them.

Amen.

Love and prayers,

Captain David



Intercessions

Lord Jesus, you fulfil our desires beyond our imagining. Transform your church's failures and disappointments into new opportunities for your Kingdom. As we approach the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity teach us to see you in all your people, and revive in us our mission to declare your love.

We pray for the leaders of your church throughout the world and all who proclaim your gospel. May they be renewed and strengthened to serve your people.

We ask your blessing on those who guide our church, among them our bishops, Julian, Philip and Jill, and Archdeacon David.

We pray for all who find their lives threatened or disrupted because of their faith, and hold before you the Christian communities of India, South Sudan and Burundi.

Bless and strengthen those called by you to work in difficult and dangerous situations to bring your light to a dark world.

We pray for Fr John, Fr Chris, Captain David and Linda, and give thanks for their ministry and support to our parish and worshipping communities.

We ask your blessing on Jacqueline and Ron, our parish wardens, and on those who work with them to maintain our buildings and our fellowship.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, when provisions are low you open up a new generosity. Teach us to share of our riches and of our poverty.

Give to the leaders of the nations and those with power and authority a renewed vision that treats your creation with respect and cares for the poorest and weakest of people with compassion and dignity.

We hold before you our government and members of parliament. Renew in them a sense service and commitment and grant them wisdom and discernment in the decisions they must make.

We remember before you those whose lives are damaged and destroyed by violence and warfare or by extremes of weather.

We pray for the people of Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria, for those trapped in refugee camps and all who are displaced from their homes and families and enduring winter conditions.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, you shared in the joy of a wedding and rejoiced in the company of family and friends. Renew our communities and relationships and help us to find in each other strength, companionship and delight.

We pray for all who live and work in our parish, and for those who work for their health and wellbeing.

May they know the presence of your Spirit in their lives.

We remember those in our communities who are without work or home and those struggling to hold families together. We pray too for those who use the Community Pantry and foodbanks in our city.

We ask your blessing on those who work to support and encourage those in need.

May our worship lead us to action as we serve you by serving all those you have given us as neighbours.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, you respond to need wherever you find it. Bring your transforming love to bear on all who feel drained or exhausted by their suffering or their responsibilities.

We pray for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit and those unable to care for themselves.

Bless those who work to bring them healing, comfort and relief, whether at home or in hospital.

We hold before you those named on our prayer list, those known to us who need your healing touch, and those whose needs are known only to you.

May they know the assurance of your presence.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, you call us to share in the delights of the heavenly banquet. Renew our faith that we might rejoice with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

We pray for those who are in the presence of death and those who mourn the loss of a loved one - may they know the comfort of your presence.

We remember before you those who have died this week in the ongoing conflicts and disasters of our world.

We pray for those known to us who have died recently, and those whose anniversary is around this time.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, you transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. Turn the water of our lives into the wine of your kingdom life, and let it flow out through us in abundance.

May we be confident to ask for what is needed, and obedient to your commands. May your glory be revealed in our world.

We bring to you now the silent prayers of our hearts for ourselves and those we love.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Merciful Father, Accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ Amen

If you would like to sing:

Vagabonds

<https://youtu.be/fdner5jnA34>

Christ is the world's light

<https://youtu.be/D3t7lgiLoZY>

Holy Spirit hear us

<https://youtu.be/fw7pyYPzOQI>

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

<https://youtu.be/ynzuVpmrRQM>

All hail the power of Jesus' name

<https://youtu.be/tmxCpX28-Gc>

Sunday 23rd January

Third Sunday of Epiphany

President: The Rev'd John Ball

9:30am Eucharist at The Church of the Ascension

11:00am Eucharist at St. Mary Magdalene's

Readings

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Mid-week services and activities

Tuesday 10am – 12 noon – Community Pantry at ASC

Tuesday 11am – Service at Preston Private Nursing Home

Wednesday 10am – Eucharist at SMM

church remains open for private prayer until 12 noon.

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