

## WATER INTO WINE



As we return to the Ordinary Sundays we continue to reflect on the Mission of Jesus. The four Gospels introduce Jesus and his Mission in different ways.

On the feast of the Epiphany, we heard Matthew's story of the Magi that showed us that Jesus is the Light to the nations.

Last Sunday, on the feast of The Baptism of the Lord, we read Luke's account of the Baptism of Jesus where Jesus is revealed as the Son of God by a voice from heaven and the Holy Spirit coming upon him. Now before we take up Luke's Gospel, we turn briefly to John's Gospel.

We read from John's Gospel in Lent and in the Easter Season. However, we do not follow John's Gospel in the same way that we read the other three Gospels on the Sundays of Ordinary Time.

Each year, however, we do read from John's Gospel on the Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord as a further reflection on the Mission of Jesus'

John's Gospel is sometimes called the "Book of Signs" because of the series of signs that reveal who Jesus is and how people come to believe in him. The first of those signs is the changing of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana (John 2:1-12). This "sign" is sometimes called the first miracle of Jesus. But we fail to understand the meaning of this event if we only see it as a miracle story.

The prophets used the image of a wedding feast to describe the Covenant, the relationship between God and the People of Israel. In John's Gospel, Jesus transforms that relationship by creating a new Covenant.

The account of the marriage feast at Cana also uses other symbols. The water jars that were used for the Jewish purification rituals are a symbol of the Jewish Law of Moses that Jesus comes to transform. The wine that Jesus provided in abundance (the best wine) is the symbol of God's grace and truth that have come into the world through Jesus.

This first sign points us to the moment when Jesus' hour does come, his final glorification that seals the new Covenant.

*Paul Crowley*

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