

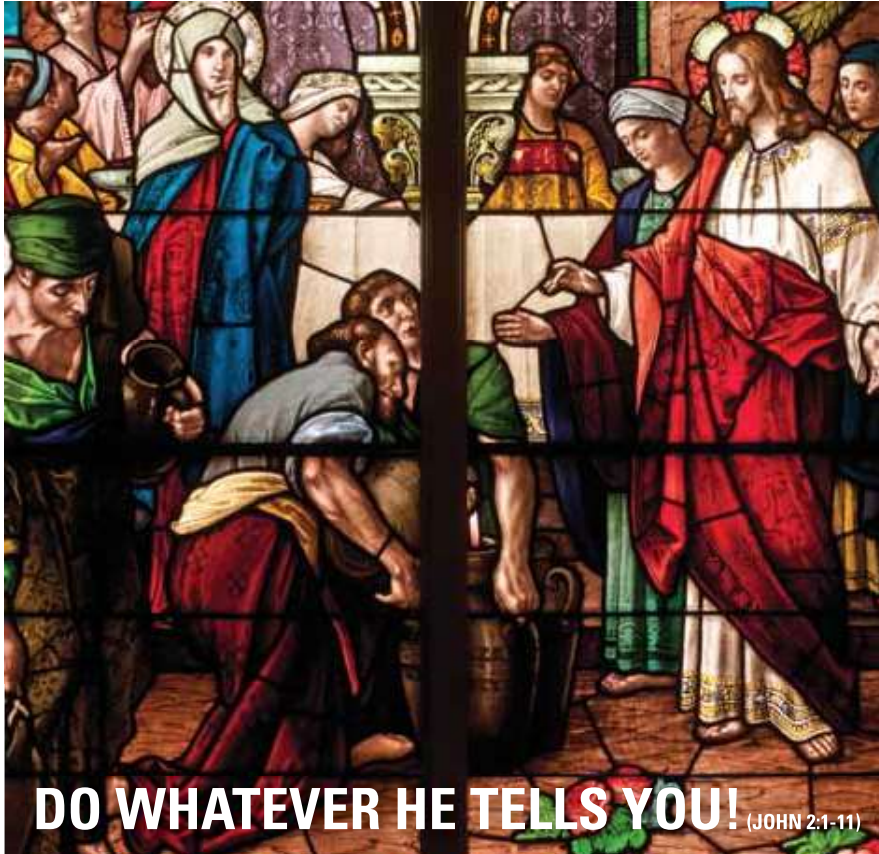
16 JANUARY 2022

# Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Psalter Week 2



Stained glass window depicting the wedding feast of Cana and Jesus turning water into wine

Although our Gospel readings in this liturgical year are taken from the account of Luke, the scene is set for the ministry of Jesus by the story of the first of Jesus' signs in the narrative of John the evangelist, the well-known episode of the marriage feast at Cana in Galilee.

The person first invited was apparently the mother of Jesus, to whom John never refers by name. The mother is accompanied by Jesus and his disciples, who have not yet come to a proper understanding of who Jesus is.

In the Bible, a marriage feast with an abundance of food and wine is used to symbolise the messianic kingdom in its completeness. The exhausting of the supplies provided is the occasion for the revealing of Jesus' glory and the beginning of people putting their faith in him. The final manifestation of this glory comes with "the hour" of Jesus, which forms the core of his rebuke to his mother's pointing out the need of the moment.

Perhaps we might concentrate on the unconditional faith, or trust, shown by the mother of Jesus. The main relationship in the Fourth Gospel is between Jesus and the Father: anyone else is outside of this. The point is that his mother shows unconditional trust in Jesus without any clue from the Gospel narrative as to why she should. She tells the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." It is her complete trust in Jesus which leads to his revealing his glory and the disciples putting their faith and trust in him. The scene is set for his ministry which will culminate in the full revelation of his glory on the cross. ■

## SAY

**Do whatever he tells you.**  
(John 2:5)

## DO

Pour a glass or cup of water. Think of the first sign of Jesus and, like the disciples, put your trust in him.

## REFLECT

**W**e have to read each of the Gospel accounts according to its author's understanding of Jesus and this will affect how the other characters in the story appear. We are not dealing with biography or history, but with expressions of faith. Thus the Jesus of the Fourth Gospel is different from the figure presented by the Synoptic evangelists. He is much more conscious of his coming from God and of his relationship with the Father.

There is a natural inclination to import details from other Gospel accounts into any of the versions, especially if we find passages difficult to understand, but in doing so we can dilute the meaning of the text in front of us. In the present case, we can think that it is about Jesus responding to the hint or request of his mother. But there is something more profound at work. His (unnamed) mother is the first person to show unconditional trust in Jesus. The more important words she says are those addressed to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." She has no idea what Jesus is going to do, but she trusts him.

It is this trust (or faith) which leads to Jesus revealing his glory and to the disciples "believing in him". This is far more important than rescuing the wedding party from their embarrassment. ■

## LEARN

In the biblical languages, the terms "faith" and "trust", or "believing" and "trusting", are often interchangeable.

In the Fourth Gospel, the mother of Jesus and the disciple whom Jesus loved are never referred to by name.

The changing of water into wine is a symbol of the arrival of the messianic kingdom in the person and ministry of Jesus.



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

All the earth shall bow down before you,  
O God,  
and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who govern all things,  
both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading of your people  
and bestow your peace on our times.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

About Zion I will not be silent,  
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,  
until her integrity shines out like the dawn  
and her salvation flames like a torch.  
The nations then will see your integrity,  
all the kings your glory,  
and you will be called by a new name,  
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.  
You are to be a crown of splendour in the  
hand of the Lord,  
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;  
no longer are you to be named "Forsaken",  
nor your land "Abandoned",  
but you shall be called "My Delight"  
and your land "The Wedded";  
for the Lord takes delight in you  
and your land will have its wedding.  
Like a young man marrying a virgin,  
so will the one who built you wed you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,  
so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 95

Response:

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord  
among all the peoples.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: "God is king."  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life:  
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,  
that we may participate worthily in these  
mysteries,  
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is  
celebrated  
the work of our redemption is accomplished.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

You have prepared a table before me,  
and how precious is the chalice that  
quenches my thirst.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,  
and in your kindness  
make those you have nourished  
by this one heavenly Bread  
one in mind and heart.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**MASSSES and INTENTIONS: January 2022**

Sat 15th	10.30am	Our Lady's Mass	Francesca Burton <i>RIP</i>
Sat 15th		11-12 noon Confessions and Adoration	<i>RIP</i>
Sat 15th	6.00pm	2nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (VIGIL)	Ram Kati <i>RIP</i>
Sun 16th	8.00am	2ND SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 16th	10.00am	2ND SUNDAY	Rory Schofield <i>(anns.)</i>
Mon 17th	9.15am	St. Antony, Abbot	Gair Greene <i>RIP</i>
Tue 18th		No Public Mass	
Wed 19th	1.00pm	St. Wulstan, Bishop	Exam Success
Thu 20th	9.15am	Feria	Family Intention <i>(anns.)</i>
Fri 21st	1.00pm	St. Agnes	Danny West <i>RIP</i> <i>(D.K.)</i>
Sat 22nd	10.30am	Our Lady's Mass	Ginette & Maciej <i>family RIP</i>
Sat 22nd		11-12 noon Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 22nd	6.00pm	3rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (VIGIL)	Antony Philip <i>(5th anns.)</i>
Sun 23rd	8.00am	3rd SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 23rd	10.00am	3rd SUNDAY	Christian Unity <i>Stream'd</i>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
**Saturdays 11-12noon (Confessions)**

<b>Lately Dead</b>	Alena Liskova
<b>Remembrance:</b>	Bernard Meaker
	Elizabeth Hankinson
	Victoria Bord
	Barbara O'Sullivan
<b>Please Pray For The Sick</b>	
Pat England	Mary Elizabeth
Celia Pritchard	Kathleen Hanna
Lynne Howells	Daniel Brit
Margaret Skelding	Midd Jassari
Monica Cook	Joan Colley
Martin O'Connor	

**Teas and coffees after 10am Mass are suspended for the time being. IT IS COMPULSORY TO WEAR A MASK IN CHURCH UNLESS EXEMPT Thank you.**

**In the Winter Season of Ordinary Time, we are invited to pray for these Intentions: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; Victims of Human Trafficking and Those Who Work to Combat it; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; The Unemployed.**

**In the Cycle of Prayer: this week we remember Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, Hereford**

**Readings for this week**

Sunday Year C	Psalter Week 2
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Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6.00pm Jane Genard	Helen Booth
8.00am Vera McHale	Dorothy Kennedy
10.00am Mia Brennan	Liz Symonds
<b>Collections for 8th/9th January - Thank You</b>	
1st Running of the Parish	£492.35
2nd Renovation	£339.25

**There will be a Retiring collection at all Masses this weekend for Belmont Monks' Training.** Thank God, there are 2 postulants at Belmont at the moment and your donation will help with the costs of their education and preparation for the monastic life. Thank you for your generosity.

**The Crib Offering this year is for St. Michael's Hospice.**

**The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18th to 25th January** The Theme this year is "We Saw His Star in the East..." and the daily prayer resources have been provided by churches of the Middle East. This year St. Francis Xavier is hosting a prayer service on Monday 24th January at 12 midday. The service will be followed by a soup lunch. Do your best to come along and support these prayers that all may be one.

**Tuesday 18th January** Luncheon service at St. John's Methodist Church, St. Owen St

**Thursday 20th January 1pm** Quaker Meeting House, King Street 30 minute meeting for worship. Limited to 20 in the Meeting Room to be socially distanced. Contact: Audrey Nunn: [hereford.quakers@gmail.com](mailto:hereford.quakers@gmail.com) 01432 820436

**Friday 21st January 12 noon** All Saints Church, High Street Tazze Service

**Monday 24th January 12 noon** St. Francis Xavier's Church, Broad Street.

Short service of prayer followed by a soup lunch

**Post Christmas Tidy up** If you have any chocolate, sweets (with long use by date) or unwanted gift items (eg toiletries) surplus to requirements after Christmas please leave them in a box in the sacristy after any Mass until the end of January. We will be holding a fundraising raffle or tombola at Easter. Thank you.

**The Requiem of Alena Liskova** will take place on Thursday 27th January at 3pm. We keep Alena and her family in our prayers.

## SEFX Finance Update for 2021/22 v Last two years

The table below shows our Sunday Offertory totals, including Standing Orders and On-line giving - v. last year

On-line giving - v. last year	2021/22 / £/Mk	last year 2020/21 / £/Mk
Gr 1 Apr-Jun	12 wks 19,587 / 1632	20,260 / 1632
Gr 2 Jul-Sep	13 wks 18,463 / 1430	18,069 / 1390
Gr 3 Oct-Dec	13 wks 18,641 / 1434	15,511 / 1193
Year to date	38 wks 56,691 / 1492	43,850 / 1153

In Nov 20/21 the Church was closed (Covid) for 3 weeks

Many thanks for your continued generosity as our Giving continues to improve.

To optimize your giving even further ALL UK TAXPAYERS (or their Spouses) should join opt for GIFT AID SCHEMES (GA) which enables SFX to recover 25% of the tax amount you pay to the Inland Revenue = at no cost to you

GA Forms are in the rack on the Narthex table - please complete one & hand it in. For help or any more information, please speak to Steve Cleave, Stephen Booth, Father Michael or a Steward.

**The 2022 Confirmation Course** begins at St. Francis Xavier's this Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 6.30pm until 8pm. It will take place in the Parish Hall. This 1st session will be slightly longer than subsequent ones with a welcome, refreshments, paperwork and Session One of our course. Looking forward to seeing you there!

The Confirmation Team.

To All Parishioners: We know you will keep all the young Confirmation candidates in your prayers. Some of you may be invited by candidates from your parish to be sponsors and give spiritual support. We hope that other parishioners may wish to sponsor the course books which each candidate will receive. Each receives a Youcat Bible and Youcat Confirmation course book costing £12 and £9 respectively. If any parishioner feels able to offer sponsorship for either of these that would be wonderful. Thank you.

**Parish 200 Club Renewals and new Prize Fund.** From January 2022 the monthly prize fund will increase as follows: 1st £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10. We hope you will continue to support the 200 Club in 2022 and look forward to receiving your renewals and requests for new numbers. Please send a cheque for £12 per number (cheques payable to St. Francis Xavier's 200 Club) to the church in an envelope with your name on it and stating 200 Club. (If you pay by standing order you do not need to do anything). Anyone who banks online can pay direct to: "Santander, 09-06-66 acc: 42516221. St. Francis Xavier's Church". Please put your name as reference and let me know by email to confirm that you have done so. If you require information on your payments, e.g. how many numbers you have, please call 850414 or email [pegwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:pegwilliams@gmail.com) Best wishes Paul and Brenda Williams.

**The God Who Speaks** Team has sent Scripture based resources for the month of January. In this item, Canon Pat Harret looks at Life to the Full: Active Participation in the Liturgy. This is the link to read more: <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/news/news-bible-resolutions-life-to-the-full-active-participation-in-the-liturgy/>

Please collect letters from basket in sacristy Brenda and Paul Williams and M Daron.

**The annual pilgrimage to Walsingham in Norfolk takes place from 2nd-6th May, 2022** This year the cost is £350pp (standard room) or £400pp (en-suite room). This covers return coach travel from Belmont Abbey, or Holy Trinity Ledbury and half board accommodation at the Pilgrim Hostel in Walsingham village. *Early booking is advised to secure an en-suite room.* The pilgrimage is open to everyone - you do not have to be a member of the Walsingham Association. It is a unique opportunity from this area to visit one of the oldest Marian shrines in the world. "When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England" - Pope Leo XIII. For full details, and booking form contact Maema MacBain 01432 359867 or email [maemahbaker@gmail.com](mailto:maemahbaker@gmail.com)

**Journeying Forward Together**

**SFX Listening project update** As you know, Pope Francis has invited the worldwide church to be involved in the 2023 Synod by sharing our experiences of faith and our dreams and hopes for the future.

Everyone is invited to complete a parish survey, which we hope will be launched next weekend. It will be possible to complete surveys either electronically or in a paper format. There will also be opportunities to voice ideas in informal discussion groups. The aim of the survey is to listen to the people of the parish and any others who choose to take part. We hope that this "listening" phase of the Synodal Pathway will be a time of personal reflection and will form the basis of a parish plan as we journey forward together.

**OTHER NOTICES**

**Salve Regina, mater misericordiae:**  
vita, dulcedo et spes nostra, salve.  
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii: Hævae  
Ad te suspiramus,  
gentes et fletus  
in hæ lacrimarum valle.  
Eia, ergo, advocata nostra,  
illos tuos misericordes oculos  
ad nos converte

Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,  
nobis post hoc exsiliium ostende.  
O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo Maria.



**Prayer to St. Michael** Archangel, defend us in the day of battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK	
Mon 17th Jan	SVP in Parish Hall
Wed 19th Jan	Confirmation Group in Parish Hall
WHAT'S COMING UP	
Mon 24th Jan	Prayer Service for Christian Unity
Wed 26th Jan	ABC Group in Parish Library
Thu 27th Jan	PAC Meeting in Parish Hall
Mon 7th Feb	SVP Meeting in Parish Hall