

# Sunday Readings

## 20th January 2019

### FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 62:1-5

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.*

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 95:1-3,7-10. R/. v3.*

**R/. Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R/.**

Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R/.**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name. **R/.**

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

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians 12:4-11

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

Is 3:9, Jn 6:68

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

John 2:1-11

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

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.*



# The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

## The Word of God

## Saint of the Week

God reveals his glory in the unlikeliest of places—in a stable at Bethlehem, at a wedding party in Cana, in a muddy Jordan river, and on a bloody cross on Golgotha. Jesus' first public miracle (his first sign) was performed at the insistence of his mother. Jesus blessed a young couple and brought joy to their wedding party. First by his presence and, second, by saving them from embarrassment when the wine ran out. Changing water into wine was a remarkable act of kindness. In the Old Testament wine was often seen as a gift and symbol of God's blessing. That Jesus would miraculously produce 120 gallons of the best wine (many times more than needed) shows the superabundance of the blessings which he came to offer.

This miracle signifies the new rich wine of the Gospel and it points to the "wine of the new covenant" and the "bread of life" which Jesus provides for his disciples in the Lord's Supper or Eucharist. It also points to the Messianic banquet which Jesus will provide at the end of time. The miracles of Jesus demonstrate the power of God's love and mercy for his people. God's kindness knows no limits. And the ultimate expression of his love is revealed in the person of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He became flesh for our sake, and he died for our redemption, and he rose for our glorification. Do you thirst for God and for the life of holiness he offers?

Father, you have revealed your glory in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fill me with your Holy Spirit that I may bring you glory in all that I do and say.

## Prayer of the Week

### A Prayer for Christian Unity



Lord Jesus Christ, at your Last Supper you prayed to the Father that all should be one. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who bear your name and seek to serve you. Strengthen our faith in you, and lead us to love one another in humility. May we who have been reborn in one baptism be united in one faith under one Shepherd. Amen.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

### St Agnes (- 304)



As with so many of the early Roman martyrs, very little is now known about Agnes' life. Partly this is because the details have been obscured by the light that shines from her martyrdom and the cult that it inspired, and partly because if you are martyred at the age of 12, your life has not really acquired that many details in any case. Agnes was filled with the love of God from an early age, vowed herself to celibacy, and when the opportunity of

martyrdom arose, she did not hide away but stepped forward and took it.

That is really all that is known: but it is enough. We who are used to compromising with the world at every turn, and would find excuses to avoid any inconveniences that our faith might cause us, let alone martyrdom ("yes, of course I would die for my faith *in principle*, but wouldn't I be able to do more good in the long run if I stayed alive just now?"), should admire the simple wisdom of Agnes, realise that there are moments where compromise and moral ambiguity just will not do, and pray for the strength to live up to such moments when they happen.

