

Sunday Readings

19th January 2025

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 62:1-5

For Sion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.
The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the
LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over 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

Brothers and Sisters: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

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.

At that time: There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding seventy or one hundred litres. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.' So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. 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.

Tuesday 21st January 2025

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.

