

## Water to Wine

In St John's gospel today, we have the marriage feast of Cana. John says it is the first of Jesus' miracles, he let his glory be seen and his disciples believed. When John writes, there is always a deeper meaning to his narrative and the marriage feast of Cana, points to the end of Jesus' life when he dies on the cross. In both stories, Jesus is quoted, "My hour has not yet come" and he calls his mother, "Woman". It is only in those two accounts that he calls his mother by that title. The marriage at Cana has water turning to wine and Jesus saves the day. At his death on the cross when water and blood came from his side, the resurrection changes the whole event and Jesus saves humanity. In the resurrection, he let his glory be seen and his disciples believed.

Last week, we celebrated the Feast of the Lord's baptism and it was a reminder of our own baptism where in the baptismal font we enter the tomb of Jesus and are buried to our old selves and are immersed in the life giving force of the Holy Spirit which raised Jesus to a new life. Through that Spirit in baptism, we too are called to a new life where we look at life differently. That new life is where we offer ourselves to the service of God and his gospel. We might be made mainly of water but through baptism, we are changed into something far more than just flesh, water and blood. As the Holy Spirit, unites itself to us we are changed from water to wine.

As St Paul reminds us in today's second reading, we are all given different gifts by the Holy Spirit, which we use to reflect the presence of the kingdom. We do not just have water flowing through us that gives us mortal life but a Spirit that gives us immortality and the ability to reflect something of the presence of God here on earth. Jesus gathered a community because he realised humanity can achieve much more when it works together. Today's readings remind us that each of us is not just unique but also invaluable to God and when we work together as community, we can achieve far more than what we could ever imagine. Let's use this year to be open to that Spirit and see where it leads us.

Take care

Fthr Keith