

Living the Word

Isaiah 62:1-5

The marriage relationship is the most intimate we know. It is designed to become ever deeper and more absorbing. So in the Bible the connection of the Lord to his people is described in this way. But, like many human marriage relationships, it went through tough times. Israel was so determinedly unfaithful to the Lord that eventually he was compelled to address the situation. God abandoned Israel to those with whom she had prostituted herself. This was not to be a permanent state of affairs. Israel could not go on being called 'Abandoned' and 'Forsaken.' The past would be forgotten. After the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, Isaiah prophesies the final wedding in terms of the unalloyed joy of a newly wedded couple. So in the gospels Jesus uses the figure of the final wedding-feast, and the image of himself as the bridegroom in the joy of the festival. He always gives us another chance, a unique welcome.

Liturgical colours: green

The theological virtue of hope is symbolized by the colour green, just as the burning fire of love is symbolized by red. Green is the colour of growing things, and hope, like them, is always new and always fresh. Liturgically, green is the colour of Ordinary Time, the orderly sequence of weeks through the year, a season in which we are being neither single-mindedly penitent (in purple) nor overwhelmingly joyful (in white).

Prayers to remember:

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: mercifully hear the supplications of thy people; and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

16th January 2022

Second Sunday of Epiphany/
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Lavishness

Jesus responds to the needs of the wedding guests at Cana with the most extraordinary gift. John tells us that the servants filled the jars 'to the brim,' each jar holding twenty to thirty gallons of water. These jars become the source of the most beautiful wine. At his very first sign Jesus is making something very clear: he meets human need in overwhelming and glorious generosity. John tells us in the beginning of his Gospel that 'from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace'. Our Lord is a lavish Lord. He is always giving far more than we desire or deserve. In our Holy Communion he gives us his very self, and at every Mass the transforming power of the fullness of his grace provides for us wine that is full of the promise of heaven. In this way he reveals his glory as he first did at the wedding feast in Cana.

Today's Gospel: St. John 2:1-11