

Dunleer Parish Bulletin

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Channel 1: St Brigid's RC Dunleer Parish [Livestream]
 Channel 2: Dunleer Parish Media [Recordings]



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Every year, an abundance of water is turned into wine. It happens so normally and naturally that people do not give it much notice. The rains that water the earth are taken up by the vine and the grapes that are harvested are transformed into wine with the help of skilful vine-keepers. The wonder of this transformation is eroded by our familiarity with it. As we have become more Europeanised in the past few decades, we have re-discovered the wonders of wine and its transforming effect when appreciated with food and company.

The wedding feast of Cana story kicks off the Gospel according to Saint John with what seems like a naïve tale about a marvel at a village wedding. Saint John appears to have been a little reluctant regarding the word miracle so he calls it a 'sign'. It is the first of a list of seven signs, the number being highly symbolic. In the traditions of the East it is gathered into a trinity with the baptism of Jesus and the Epiphany as a triple showing forth to the world of the glory of what has happened and the identity and glory of the one who has worked this sign. A sign, according to John the Evangelist's understanding, is something that actually happens but that carries a deeper meaning than the actual happening. This is a life-giving story. It tells of the transforming power of Jesus.

The symbolism of a wedding is still with us as we speak of the 'banquet of life' prepared for us. In Jesus we have a marriage of the heavens and the earth and we hear of the God of Israel being wedded to his sometimes unfaithful and always stubborn spouse, Israel. The symbolism of marriage is with us in the remnant of feudal ritual when a bishop wears a 'wedding ring' as a sign of his commitment to the church or community that he is 'wedded' to. The presence of a superabundance of wine might have reminded scripture scholars of the prophecy of Amos that, 'the mountains would drip with sweet wine.'

The story of Cana happens on the 'third day'. All of the elements and the images of the story are shot through with allegory and deeper meaning. The telling of the Gospel can be said to have begun with a story about wine and ending with another final or Last Supper that involved the transforming, life-giving use of wine and bread.

The story is an important inaugural event in the life of Christ and with it we leave the infant Christ behind and begin to deal with the challenge and the promise of the super-abundant, life-giving, transforming power of the one who gives us the choice and possibility of changing everything.

Sat 15 th 7 30 p.m.	Michael McCabe Eoin Carney Thos and Teresa Landy
Sun Jan 16 th 10 30	Thos and Bgd Flynn and Kathleen Farrell
Sun Jan 16 th 11 30	MM Michael Dunne Av Philip Grogan
Sat 22 nd 10 a.m.	Nellie Fitzpatrick
Sat 22 nd 7 30	Maeve Murphy James and Teresa Darby Michael King
Sun 23 rd 10 30	MM John Cunningham. John and Mary Cunningham.
Sun 23 rd 11 30	John and Josephine Dowd Rose and Mary Dowd

Envelopes will have gone out by now to homes that use them to contribute. If not, please pick up a set at church doors. You can also donate at iDonate or directly to the bank at Dunleer Parochial Account. Thank you for your consistent generosity. A/C 24995188

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