

HOMILY–2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME–YEAR C

Based on St John 2: 1-19 | By Rt Rev'd Geoffrey S Robinson CJ

May I speak in the Name of God, who is ✠Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.



Welcome to Ordinary Time, the longest season in the Church Year. By the time we get to the end of it and celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, we may feel like we have run a marathon.

Anyway, talking about a marathon, reminds me of a story about “John”. He was a really enthusiastic, but not-so-fit runner, who decided to participate in a local marathon. He trained hard, but on the day of the race, he was a little fitter but still nervous about the event.

As the race began, John found himself struggling to keep up with the other runners. His legs ached, his breath was short, and he felt like giving up.

Just when John was about to quit, he noticed a man running barefoot beside him. The man had no shoes, and his clothes were tattered, yet he was smiling and seemed to be enjoying the race. Inspired by the man’s spirit, John pushed himself to keep going.

As they both approached the finishing line, John mustered up the last of his energy and sprinted ahead, narrowly beating the man who was running barefoot. Then, gasping for breath, John turned to the man and said, “You were amazing! How did you manage to run so well without proper footwear?”

The man chuckled and replied, “I’m the local pizza delivery man. I run around all day, delivering pizzas. Running a marathon was a piece of cake compared to that!”

The Holy Gospel for today tells us about a wedding feast taking place in Cana of Galilee. It would have been a grand and joyous occasion observing first-century Jewish culture. Hospitality was paramount, and running out of wine would have been a very serious social embarrassment.

When Our Lady informed Jesus of the shortage, His initial response seemed dismissive when He replied to her -

"Woman, what does this have to do with me?"

My hour has not yet come." (John 2:4, ESV).

However, Our Lady’s faith in Jesus’ power shone through in her words, as she told the servants “*Do whatever he tells you*”

So, we hear how Jesus instructed the servants to fill six of the stone water jars with water. These jars, used for ceremonial washing, held about 20-30 gallons each. Then, when the water was drawn out, it had become wine - not just any old wine, but wine of the finest quality.

This miracle reveals Jesus' divine authority and abundant provision, marking the first of His signs and inspiring His disciples to believe in Him.

You and I living in very difficult times when very few people who live in this country have any belief in God. Nonetheless, this story should speak powerfully to modern-day-Christians, particularly in these difficult times of scarcity, stress, and much uncertainty. It should remind us that Jesus meets us where we are, and can still transform our lack into abundance. In just the same way as He provided for those wedding guests.

Those water jars may have held some thirty gallons each. They represented a shift from the ritual Jewish Law, to the New Covenant of Grace. An invitation for us all to reflect on how Christ can transform not only our external circumstances but also our inner lives.

In our part of a world that often feels depleted of resources, hope, and compassion; this miracle should serve to reassure us that God's grace is not only sufficient; but can be overflowing if we can trust God's timing. Like Mary, we are called to trust Our Blessed Lord, even when His timing or methods are not what we expect.

If we Celebrate God's Abundance and reflect on the ways in which God can turn "water" into "wine" in our lives, He may even continue to provide His blessings where and

when we least expected them; even in this godless land of ours.

Then, as followers of Christ, and being channels of His grace, we may even be invited to be like those servants; who by obeying His instructions shared His abundance with others.

Well, just in case you are thinking that I have forgotten the point of the story about 'John' - I haven't. He ran the marathon alongside a barefoot pizza deliveryman. You know; life is not just about having the best equipment, or being the most talented person in the world. It's more about perseverance, determination and finding joy in all we do for the advancement of the Catholic Faith within our land today.

Perhaps we would all do well to remember that!
Amen.