

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The scriptures often use the image of a wedding to describe the relationship between God and God's people. Today we hear how it was at a wedding that Jesus gave a sign of God's abundant love for us.

Isaiah 62:1-5

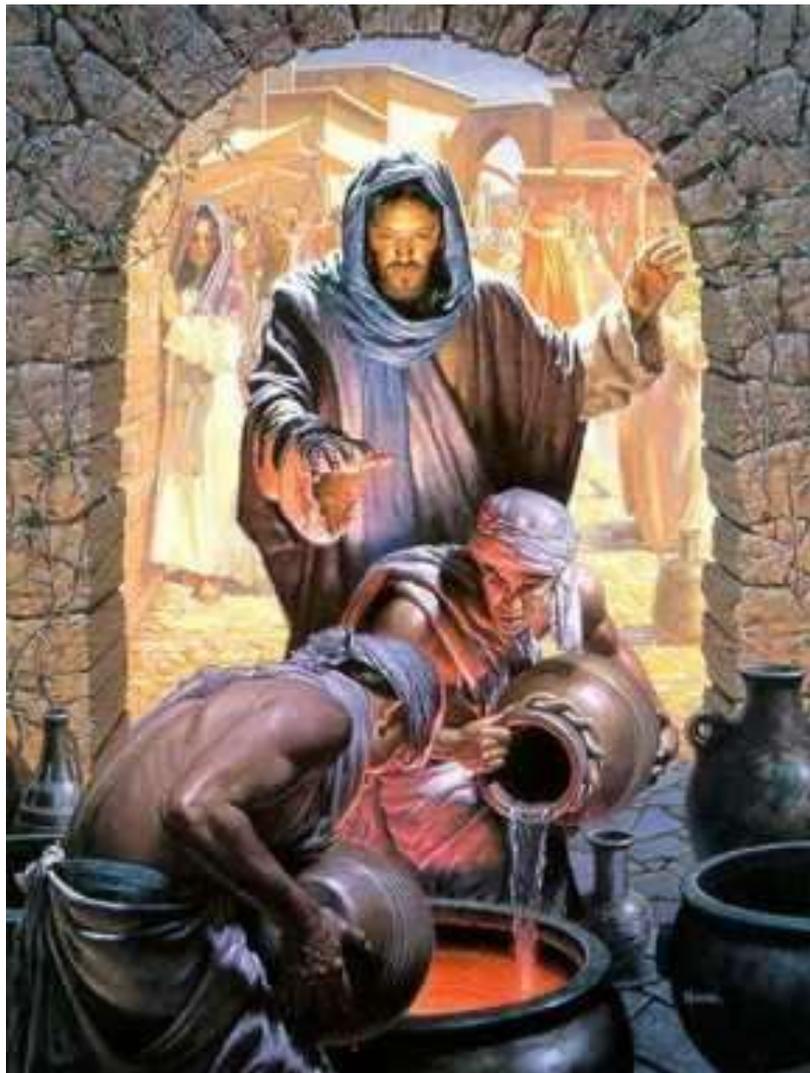
The prophet proclaims that just as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so God rejoices in God's people.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Paul speaks of the great variety of gifts that are given by the Holy Spirit.

John 2:1-11

At a wedding at Cana in Galilee, Jesus gives his disciples the first sign of his glory.





In Jesus' day, wedding feasts typically lasted several days. Guests had to travel many miles to outlying villages, and the hosts had to provide adequate food and drink for them. Mary and Jesus, along with his disciples, were invited to a wedding at Cana, about nine miles northeast of Nazareth. Jesus' mother noticed that the young couple were running out of wine and interceded with Jesus on their behalf. Jesus addressed his mother by the unconventional title "woman." Mary was the new Eve whose offspring, Jesus, would crush the head of the ancient serpent, Satan, through his death and resurrection. Her request initiated her son's power even though the time for him to reveal his glory had not yet come.



The people were astonished as the new wine was poured out from the water jars, used for ritual purification.

Jesus' mother Mary was present at this first "hour" of her son's glory as she would be at his final "hour" of agony. On the cross, Jesus would shed water and blood for the people's redemption. Once again, he called his mother "woman." Mary is the New Eve whose obedience to God brought about salvation. She is the Mother of the Church who shelters the faithful, who are symbolized by Jesus' disciple John.

***“This was the first of the signs given by Jesus;
it was given at Cana in Galilee”***

The Gospel of this second Sunday of Ordinary Time continues the theme of the end of Christmas – revelation, manifestation. Jesus is revealed to the world by his birth, by his baptism, and by his miracles - the “signs” as John calls them. The wedding in today's Gospel is interpreted in many ways: today, reading the Gospel with the First Reading in mind, we can see it as an image of the way in which God is so close to his people, it is as though he is married to them. Thus Jesus, the spouse of the people, shows God's closeness by revealing his glory in this miracle.



A special synod

The theme of the upcoming 16th synod of bishops is: **“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”**.

Synodality indicates **walking together** and **listening to one another** but above all **to the Holy Spirit**.

To deepen this essential characteristic of the Church, the coming synod is not like any previous Synods. It starts with and involves **all the Baptised** in the local Churches of the world, listening to everyone, especially the lay people. That is why this synod is a 2-year process, starting from 10 October 2021 to October 2023.

The diocesan listening phase will run until April 2022, and will be followed by a continental phase from September 2022 to March 2023. The final “universal Church phase” will culminate in the traditional assembly of the synod of bishops in the Vatican in October 2023.

It's not over in 2023! We have to become a "Synodal Church" – always walking together, listening to all the Baptised and, especially, listening to the Holy Spirit.

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