

This week Third Sunday of Epiphany January 21st 2024

The Week ahead:

Today	9.00am	Low Mass
	10.00am	Parish Mass.
Monday 22nd	10.00am all day	West Park Writers Canon J on a course.
Tuesday 23rd	1.30pm 6.30pm	Children's Church Choir
Wednesday 24th	10.30am	Mass at St W's
Thursday 25th	11.00am 3pm 4pm 7.00pm	Presentation at School re visit to Kolkata this term Canon J at School Canon J at Church House Mass
Sunday 28th January	9am	Low Mass
	10am	Parish Mass

By name we pray for

Stewart Wharton, Iris George, Doris Blurton, Joe, Joan Pugh, Joshua, Margaret,
 Dulcie Morley, Brian Harbord, Michael Carey, Stephen Bowdler, Marie, Eric and
 Dorothy Boston, Brian Peake Joshua, Doran

RIP: Maureen Rivers

This week's Gospel : John 2. 1- 11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Mtr Kate's Reflection

'They have no wine'.

They have no family, they have no hospitals, they have no home. They have no food, no justice, no security.

The story of the wedding at Cana is one of the most familiar of the Gospel stories that has permeated modern culture, replete with symbolism and meaning. It is the first of seven signs in John's Gospel that tell us Christ is the Messiah, it takes place on the third day, and we have the first of only two glimpses of Mary, referred to only as the mother of Jesus. The next time we see her will be at the crucifixion.

Do people want to hear a familiar story about God's grace and generosity when there is so much devastation in the world? It is far easier to see the gloom and decay over this story of God's amazing grace and endless generosity if we live in scarcity, when we are repeatedly informed that we don't have resources for healthcare, for the homeless, for the vulnerable, yet overnight we can find resources to go to war.

But scarcity was the context of the wedding in Cana, where the wine was exhausted. Liberal theologian Marcus Borg described this event as happening in the "backwater of Galilee," in a community that knew what it was just to get by and sometimes to do without.

A village where people relied on the community and hospitality of others, maybe like the modern equivalent of foodbanks or homeless charities that are so prevalent in our own communities.

Perhaps then, in Cana it wasn't a surprise that the wine had run out. Wine in this era was not a luxury. The scarcity of water, and its regular contamination, made wine a necessity for cooking, and hospitality. Wine suggested a community was blessed, running out at wedding was the double whammy of a curse and social shame. And it is in this every day situation, a community wedding, not calming a storm, or the raising of Lazarus, that Jesus begins his ministry.

We can have a hard time believing God cares about our routine realities, but God comes to us disguised as our lives.

Where is your wine running out? Where are you feeling empty? When are you feeling not enough?

The familiar routine reality and stories we live by can shape our responses to life and where we see God in them. If we repeatedly tell ourselves we aren't worthy, or not good enough, or allow others to tell us who we are, it becomes our narrative and we arrive at the feast immune to what God is offering us, unable to accept that this open invitation to make room for the unexpected could ever apply to us.

We may need to follow the example of Mary and name our empty places. Our inner pain of missing someone. Our sense of inadequacy when we feel we have failed our kids or those that love us. And how difficult it is, clickbait headlines bombard us from every angle. 'Learn where World War 3 is likely to start' and 'UK on alert for weekend wipeout' were just two I saw online yesterday, yet this is the language we are bombarded with, intended to keep us in a perpetual state of fearfulness. The stories that allow us to flourish and to live the joyful, abundant life promised to us all by Jesus.... are those that place us in a larger, more extravagant setting and give us meaning and hope. They allow us to believe that it's not about whether we think we are 'good enough' or deserving.

While most of the world is marching on to the Easter holidays, we are still in the season of Epiphany, our last three readings each Sunday are about making room for the unexpected. After the story of the Magi, last week we heard how a sceptical Nathaneal's life was transformed as Christ saw him. Today we are reminded of the abundance of God's grace and love for all, to make room for the unexpected and believe in the possibility of hope and transcendence. All of these stories encourage us to make room for the unexpected, to expect joy and hope, especially at the times when we are at our most empty.

We are all invited to Cana, to this Open Table fellowship that demonstrates God's great and inclusive love, to share in her grace that is so freely and gloriously given. And if we are blessed with more than we need, as most of us are, we are called to be the steward, to share it with others, so that it overflows.

This week, I came across a poignant prayer from Cole Arthur Riley, an American liturgist and poet that seems appropriate to share this morning.

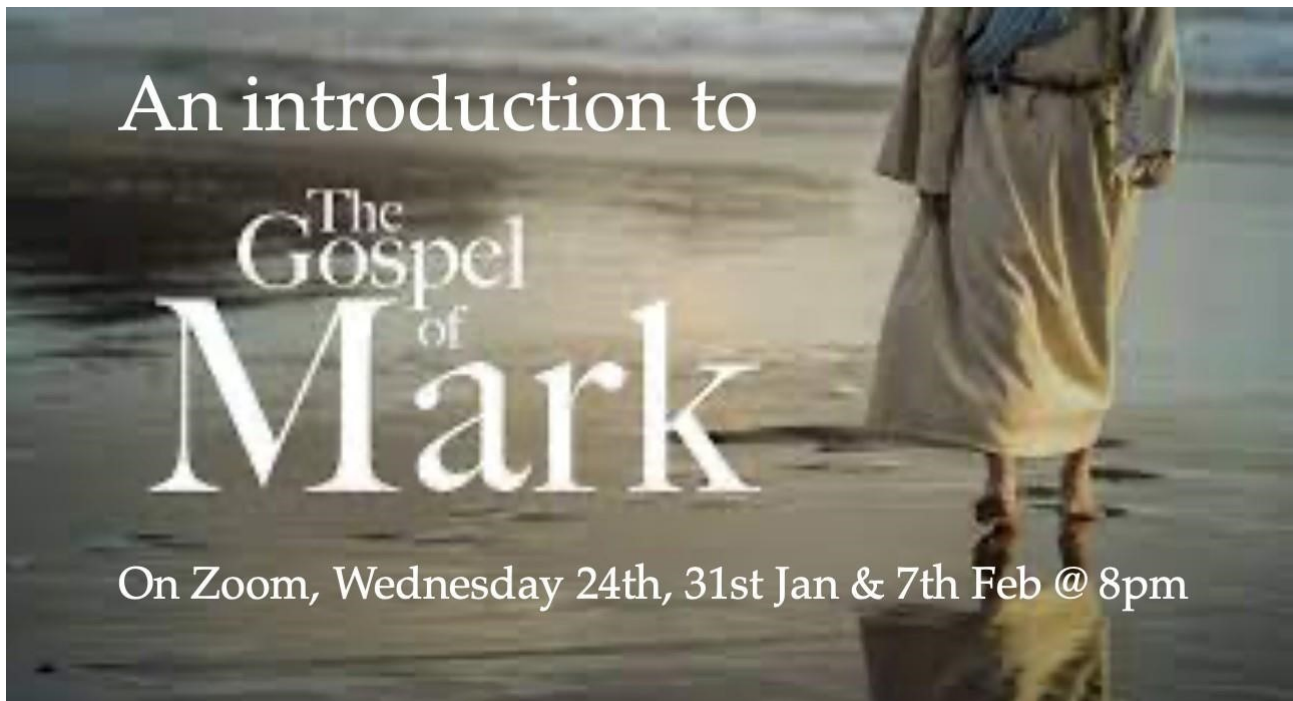
'Dear God of beautiful things. Make us people of wonder. Show us how to hold on to nuance and vision when our souls become addicted to pain, to the unlovely. Attune our hearts to the good still stirring in our midst. Grant us habits of sacred pause. Let us marvel at beauty's name etched into every ordinary moment. And may we be sustained and kept from despair. Amen.



We celebrate Candlemas
as our Patronal Festival as
its the nearest Sunday to
St Werburgh's Day.

Why not join us for lunch cooked
by Canon J after Parish Mass
Sign up at the notice board.

If you haven't as yet signed up for lunch
next week can you do so today please. It'd
be really lovely for us to have a meal and a
celebration so everyone is welcome!



These sessions will not be long and last about half an hour. They are an opportunity to place the readings we hear on a Sunday in the context of the New Testament and can help us interpret their meaning for us today.

LENT begins in a couple of weeks. It's always difficult to work out what people actually want to help them journey through Lent. Can you let Canon J know if you'd like any of the following:

- Clergy led (or not) Lent group on zoom or in person
- Stations of the Cross on Saturday afternoon
- Kids worship on a Sunday afternoon (with food)
- An app to access from our phone

MAP

MEDICAL AID FOR **PALESTINIANS**

THANK YOU to all members of St Werburgh's who supported the sponsored walk from Belper to Derby in minus 6 degrees of frozen fog on 2nd December. Our aim was to raise £2000 for MAP. To date more than £4,700 has been donated. Thank you again.

Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) works in partnership with Palestinian communities to uphold their rights to health and dignity. It does this by developing effective, sustainable and locally-led healthcare services, providing medical aid during emergencies, and campaigning to break down the barriers to Palestinian health and healthcare today and for the future. MAP works in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan as well as in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. At the moment, of course, it is concentrating on getting aid into Gaza.



Here is a picture of the first MAP aid truck queuing to get into Gaza through the Rafah crossing carrying essential medicines and disposables for operating theatres (if they still exist) and the treatment of traumatic injuries. Thank you again for helping to pay for it.

We'll continue to keep the fund open through January until Candlemas, Please consider making an extra donation to this important appeal.



Over these weeks on a project sponsored by the Parish Church, staff from school are visiting working in schools in India

Dear Friends,

Our PCC has generously agreed that Church will support two of our teachers who are to visit Kolkata in India at the end of January. Mrs Hussain and Miss Wallis will be joining a team organised by the Cathedral Relief Service who will be providing training for women who teach children living in Kolkata's slums. Although our teachers will make a difference in India, this is not just a mission to help children living in some of the poorest conditions on Earth. We hope to create meaningful links with the children in our partner school, to help our children get to know children who live in the world alongside them.

Pakistan class have prepared a presentation for parishioners to share what we hope our St Werburgh's children will learn through this partnership about being global neighbours. If you are free on Thursday 25th January at 11am, please join us in school. The presentation will take around 15 minutes, and you are warmly welcome to stay for a cup of tea with the children afterwards to ask any questions or share anything you know about India.

Please let me (head@stwerburghs.derby.sch.uk) or Kate L know if you can make it. Thank you, Mrs Dean.

Sunday Rotas to 30th June

Hard copies of these rotas are also available in church.

Sunday	Welcome Team	Reader	Intercessions	Chalice
28/01 Candlemas	2	Joan	-	Stella & Trevor
4/02 2nd before Lent	3	Stella	Rev Eleanor	Charlotte F & Caroline F
11/02 next before Lent	4	Ann Hunt	Karen N	Rob N & James E
18/02 Lent 1	5	Fr Stephen	Joan	Rob L & Molly
25/02 Lent 2	6	Carly	Tess	Fr Harold & Caroline Morris
3/03 Lent 3	7	Granville	Stella	Keith & Janette
10/03 Mothering Sunday	Kids	Charlotte and Dora	-	Kate L & Autumn
17/03 Passion Sunday	8	Angela Pegg	Fr Harold	Lily M & Joe
24/03 Palm Sunday	(1 at school) 3 at Church	Trevor Salt	-	Noah K & Edward F
31/03 EASTER DAY	2	Molly	-	Rachael Dean & James E
7/04 Low Sunday	3	Robert N	-	-
14/04 Easter 3	4	Christine Woodhams	Fr Stephen	Rob L and Karen M
21/04 Easter 4	5	Jack Flint	Robert N	Jack & Carlotte Flint
28/04 Easter 5	6	Trevor Salt	Kate L	Keith & Janette

5/05 Easter 6	7	Angela Pegg	Fr Paul	Caroline F & Caroline Mordecai
12/05 Visit by Bishop Libby	-	Rachael Dean	Edward F	Lily Mordecai & Dorian Kröhl
19/05 PENTECOST	1	Caroline Morris	-	James E & Joan
26/05 TRINITY	2	Rob Laycock	Joan	Kate L & Autumn
2/06 T1	3	Karen Norton	Christine Woodhams	Caroline Morris & Fr Stephen
9/06 T2	4	Rev Eleanor	Stella	Fr Paul & Joe
16/06 T3	5	Kate L	Fr Stephen	Trevor & Stella
23/06 T4	6	Edward F	Karen N	Robert & Karen N
30/06 T5	7	Fr Harold	Rev. Eleanor	Fr Harold & Caroline F

IF IN DOUBT CHECK WITH CANON J BY EMAIL

If a date isn't possible can you try and arrange with someone else and change the rota.

WELCOME TEAMS:

- 1 Joan, Rob L
- 2 Tom & Sandra,
- 3 Pauline & Elaine
- 4 Jeanne & Mary
- 5 Louise S & Kathy
- 6 Autumn & Kate L
- 7 Sue & Kate L
- 8 Tess & Joan