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One in the Lord

As we enter into the second Sunday in Ordinary time, we experience something no less ordinary. We revisit the first miracle performed by Jesus when he entered into public ministry. Jesus turned water into wine upon his mother's request at a wedding feast.

The imagery of the wedding feast is significant as Christ is often referred to as the bridegroom and the Church, its bride.

In the first reading from the Book of Isaiah, God rejoices in His people, calling them His Delight and their land "The Wedded". I see this Sunday's readings as a key milestone of the love story between God and man. It begins with God seeing himself as the bridegroom of His Church. He will lead and guide the Church. The second reading from the Book of Corinthians emphasizes the "oneness" God has with us through the Holy Spirit, blessing us with different gifts so that we can be of service to Him. As the bridegroom lavishly pours out his love on his bride, God also blesses us abundantly through His gifts. Different people receive different gifts depending on their temperament and receptivity.

The love story becomes interesting when a crisis occurs at the wedding at Cana. We are told in the gospel reading that the wine has run out.

Mary, who is the ever loving and concerned mother, requests Jesus to do something about it. Very clearly, Mary knows what Jesus could do help. But Jesus replies that 'his hour has not come.' Nevertheless, he still does what His mother requested him to do.

The servants who were told to fill the water jars with water must have been amazed when they drew out wine instead. The transformation from water to wine stunned all present beyond words. What stood out for me this time was the statement by the chief steward - "People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now".

God always gives us the best all the time, even as we feel we are struggling with life. He never abandons or forsakes us. When we feel that we have run out of wine, run out of energy to cope with life's pressures, He would show us once more how He can turn water into wine.

As long as we listen and let the Spirit guide us, we will receive the best wine. Our lives are not ordinary because we have drunk the best wine - Christ Himself. Thus, we can always ask, like what Mother Mary did.

Reflection by Hope

Novena notes



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Year C
 20th January 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 20 January	Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11 Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all these peoples.
Mon, 21 January St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr	Hebr 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22 You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.
Tue, 22 January St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr	Hebr 6:10-20; Mk 2:23-28 The Lord keeps his covenant ever in mind.
Wed, 23 January	Hebr 7:1-3,15-17; Mk 3:1-6 You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.
Thu, 24 January St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor	Hebr 7:25-8:6; Mk 3:7-12 Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.
Fri, 25 January Conversion Of St. Paul, Apostle	Ac 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18 Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.
Sat, 26 January SS. Timothy & Titus, Bishops	2 Tim 1:1-8; Lk 10:1-9 Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
 Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
 Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS
 Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION
 English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm
 Mandarin: 2.30pm
 Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes

25 January, Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

Paul the Apostle, commonly known as Saint Paul and also known by his Jewish name Saul of Tarsus.

Paul is generally considered one of the most important figures of the Apostolic Age and in the mid 30s to the mid 50s AD, he founded several churches in Asia Minor and Europe. He took advantage of his status as both a Jew and a Roman citizen to minister to both Jewish and Roman audiences.



Paul was dedicated to persecuting the early disciples of Jesus in the area of Jerusalem. Paul was traveling on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus on a mission to “arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem” when the resurrected Jesus appeared to him in a great light. He was struck blind for three days and had to be led into Damascus by the hand.

During these three days, Saul took no food or water and spent his time in prayer to God. When Ananias of Damascus arrived, he laid his hands on him and said : *“Brother Saul, the Lord (Jesus), that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightiest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.”* His sight was restored and got was baptized. Paul began to preach that Jesus of Nazareth is the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God.

Approximately half of the book of Acts deals with Paul’s life and works. Thirteen of the twenty-seven books in the New Testament have traditionally been attributed to Paul.

Donations

We have now made cashless donations to the Church possible for your ease and convenience.

You may use the following steps if you would like to make a donation electronically or via a cashless method.



You may wish to donate to the following:

Please scan the QR-Code that corresponds with your intention:

Maintenance Fund



Redemptorist Seminary



Redemptorist Community



Novena Church Altar Servers Annual Recruitment Drive 2019

The Novena Church Altar Servers are having their annual recruitment drive. Interested young men may pick up a form from the reception office. Registration closes on 30th January.

Kingsmead Centre’s Programmes

In line with its vision of being a living spiritual spring for all seeking the love of God, Kingsmead Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Counselling conducts a variety of programmes including retreats, workshops and talks to meet the spiritual needs of people.

For more enquiries, please visit the website at www.kingsmeadcentre.sg

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 27th January at 12 noon.