



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year C-January 16th 2022

Readings: Isaiah 62: 1-5, Psalm 95, 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11, John 2: 1-11

A wedding is a brief moment, an exchange of words more weighty than those words can bear, a solemn promise that binds two as one, a bond of trust and self-surrender and of sacrifice.

A wedding is a day, a celebration, a party, of cheering crowds, a feast of food and festival, of loving words and wild dancing and children playing and old friendships being deepened and new ones made, a time of public recognition of the reality of this new family, a new dimension in the community.

A wedding is a lifetime, a bond of trust, undaunted hope and fierce fidelity, a companionship, a joy in the other, an ever deepening love, a journey into the heart of the beloved and of God, an union of body and of soul that transforms time and, bearing rich harvest, reaches down the years til death dissolves this human frame and the triumph of eternity transforms our little human loves into immortal and divine.

This is the vision that Scripture holds of our human participation in the love of God. Marriage is the image most commonly used to describe the relationship between God and His people. This is not incidental or accidental but truly providential. And thus the first miracle of Christ

takes place within the context of a wedding – an unbreakable bond of love, a sacramentum and a sign of our participation in the love of God.

The wedding at Cana in the Galilee came flooding back to me a few weeks ago for two reasons. One is that we were contemplating the opposite problem to that of the Cana wedding and had only just got to the end of the wine we had bought for our daughter, Alice's, wedding last summer—young people drink beer and cocktails apparently and old people don't drink as much as when they were young. The second was that we were visiting her and her husband, Pat, in their new home – a mere two miles from where we were married 47 years ago and, together, went to pray there in the little village church and walked across the same village green to the rented farmhouse that was our first home. And thought back in thanksgiving for all that had unfolded from that place on that now long distant day.

God chose a wedding to reveal Himself in Jesus because that is His chosen image of our relationship with Him. In Jesus He reveals the perfect wedding, the mystical and physical wedding of Heaven and Earth, the indissoluble bonding in Christ of Man and God, the self-surrender and the obedience and the sacrifice that characterise true and abiding love. And that love is both the fulfilment of God's purpose in Man, our highest destiny, and that fruitfulness that characterises Christ's Body, the Church, in the propagation and nurture of the children of this outrageous, unequal, unlooked for and glorious union.

We are the children of this miraculous wedding, this amazing day, this love that takes our breath away, this festival wherein the water of our purification becomes the wine of the feast, obedient servants of the Christ, attentive to His mother's invocation, witnesses of the miracle of

grace and the more than ample provision of our God. We are thankful
concelebrants of salvation, promised, pledged and offered for that
sacred common union which is communion both now and in eternity.
We raise our chalice to the Bride and Groom – to Christ and His Church
and pray for fruitfulness.