



Liturgy Sessions

Saturday Opening Liturgy

(Accompanied by “New Wine, Fresh Skins! Morning Prayer Saturday Website Slides.pdf”)

The Wedding at Cana (“Do Whatever He Tells You”)

Saturday, 22 April 2023 9:15

OPENING CEREMONY (Slide 1)

The Teams Icon, Super-Regional Candle, and Teams GB Book of Remembrance stand at the front of the hall. For venue safety reasons, the Super-Regional Candle is unlit; an electric tealight or similar serves instead. Everyone receives a card printed on one side with the theme image for the Gathering, and blank on the reverse for note-taking.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Loving God, we thank you that we are able to gather as Teams of Our Lady and ask your blessing on our weekend together and on all Teams members wherever they are. We remember also those Team members who have died.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

SONG: “Magnificat” (Slide 2)

The three Regional Couples process forward to place their unlit Regional Candles, with accompanying electric tealights, around the Super-Regional Candle.

SCRIPTURE READING (John 2:1-11) (Slide 3)

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” Jesus said, “Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”, and they filled them to the brim. “Draw some out now,” he told them, “And take it to the steward.” They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from—only the servants who had drawn the water knew—the steward called the bridegroom and said, “People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.” This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

REFLECTING ON MARY AT THE MARRIAGE FEAST AT CANA (Slide 4)

Adapted from Brother Michael Moore, OMI

Marys’ greatness is that she points and leads us to Jesus through her own words and example. She does not seek or ask for any attention for herself. At this family wedding in Cana at which Mary and Jesus were guests, Mary is concerned about the young couple not herself.

She knows that soon there will be no wine; and at a wedding this would be a cause of great embarrassment. She quietly and without fuss or drama approaches Jesus.

Mary explains the situation to him and he seems to dismiss her; but she is not giving up that easily so she then goes to servants and confidently tells them, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’

This small but amazingly powerful statement echoes down the centuries to us today. Mary caught the attention of the servants at the wedding and she is trying to catch our attention today. I can see her standing beside me today and gently pointing to Jesus and whispering to me, ‘just do whatever he tells and asks you.’



What is Jesus asking us to do? He is inviting us to follow him, he is asking us to love each other as he loves us and he is asking us to forgive each other. He is asking us to live like him in our ordinary daily lives; he is asking us to reach out and stand beside those who are struggling, who live in poverty, or are homeless, alone or hungry.

He is asking us to be his followers and disciples. How do we do this? One way is to follow the example of Mary who did what God asked her to do! Today, may we listen to Mary, and do what Jesus asks of each of us.

We briefly consider, possibly making notes for later Sit-Down discussion, what we want transformed in our own lives. Our note cards may also be dropped in an Offertory basket during Sunday's Closing Mass.

PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS (Slide 5)

Response: Help us do whatever You ask.

Blessed be the Lord, the Creator, the God of the Future...

Blessed be Jesus, the Christ, the one who redeems all and weaves God's future...

Blessed be his vision, speaking to us of new wineskins...

Blessed be his inspiration in helping us to step beyond the safe and familiar...

Blessed be his presence, giving us courage when life is difficult and our next steps are uncertain...

Blessed be the Spirit, inspiring us to change and become new wineskins for the fresh wine of the Good News...

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SONG: "Here I Am, Lord" by Dan Schutte (Slide 6)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord; is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them;
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them;
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them.
Whom shall I send?



Image by Sue Rowney



Liturgy Sessions