

Sunday 16th January 2022

Mass Times: Monday - Friday 9.30am, Saturday: 9:30am, 5:30pm Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am

Baptisms & other sacraments: please call the office to organise.



# St Finbar's Catholic Parish

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Year C

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

The readings that are offered to us as we begin Ordinary Time carry over some of the themes that we considered during the Christmas season. Then we celebrated the new era that God inaugurated through the birth of Jesus. Now we look deeply into our minds and hearts to see just how open we are to the demands of that new year. Last Sunday we considered the manifestation of the Spirit at the time of the baptism of Jesus. This Sunday we contemplate the various manifestations of that same Spirit in our own lives. Finally, we are brought to realise that this variety of Spirit-filled ministries is intended to be a source of Christian unity and not of fragmentation or division.

One of the major themes gleaned from the readings for today is that of the call to newness. God summons us to something new, gives us a new name, provides us with new experiences, launches us into new ministries, and calls us to sing a new song of praise. Even Jesus experienced a call to newness. Through Mary, God called him out into ministry, a ministry that would bring the fruits of the eschatological age of fulfilment to the whole world. We may be inclined to think of Pentecost as the season of the Spirit, but in reality the newness of God always comes to us through the Spirit regardless of the season of the year. In the world of the new age, the real glory of Jesus will be manifested in the variety of the gifts of the Spirit given to the church.



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### from the perspective

#### The servants

What must the servants have been thinking? First of all, there was insufficient wine for the feast. They probably knew who was going to wear the blame for that ordering mistake! Then they're told to fill the enormous water jars with water, draw some into a serving vessel and go and present it to the steward of the household – effectively their overseer; their boss! They must have been very nervous about how the steward would respond to what they were taking to him. Yet they, along with Mary and Jesus, were the only witnesses to Jesus' first miracle! Even the steward was unaware of the miracle.

### gospel focus

#### The best wine

The steward comments that the best wine had been kept until the end of the wedding celebration – a clever use of an image for Jesus. Remembering the use of wedding imagery to describe the relationship between the people of Israel and God, the wedding feast is celebration of that relationship, and at the very heart of the celebration and the relationship is Jesus. He is the best wine that is kept until the end – the 'finishing touch' to a magnificent celebration, just as he is the 'finishing touch' to the relationship between God and God's people to that point.

©Liturgy Help

Please refer to the following Archdiocesan guidelines and resources for the COVID-19 pandemic:

<https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>

## JANUARY:

### Month of the Holy Name

17th St Eleusippus

18th St Margaret of Hungary

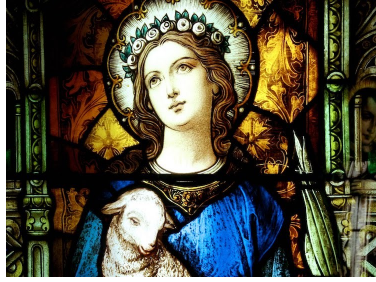
19th St Henrik, patron of Finland

20th St Fabian, St Sebastian

21st St Agnes

22nd St Vincent

23rd Espousal Blessed Virgin Mary with St Joseph



QR check-ins were still required at Places of Worship, even though vaccination status does not need to be checked.

**MASKS MUST BE WORN**

**INSIDE CHURCHES.**

The Vic Gov Coronavirus page has the following:

**Remember to check in everywhere every time using the Service Victoria app.**

### Let us pray

#### Recently deceased:

Peter Cleal

Damian Moloney

#### Anniversary:

Ann & Neville Fitzgerald, Clementina D'Amore, Tommaso Memmolo, Graeme Chaplin, Margaret Stainsby, Gladys Grant, Kathleen Crone, Cathleen Dyer, Enzo Carbone, Charlie Riddle, June Shaw



### Rosters for Next Week

	5.30pm	9.00am	11.00am
Parish Roster 3rd week 23.1.22			
Lectors	Julie McInerney	Leo	Richard Wakeham
Special Ministers	Volunteer	Volunteer	Jenny Reiche
Data Projector	Cristiano	Dials	Teresa Meyer

## Drink the new wine

Of all Jesus' miracles, we might think his turning water into wine is the least significant. However, for John, this miracle at the wedding feast of Cana takes pride of place as the first of the 'signs' given by Jesus.

Other 'signs' in John's gospel include healing miracles, feeding the 5,000, Jesus walking on water and raising Lazarus from the dead. While John acknowledges there were "many other signs", he chooses these seven 'signs' so "you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (Jn. 20:30).

Each of these miracle-signs is a foretaste of the single, great miracle of Jesus' resurrection. So, what lessons can we draw from the wedding feast of Cana? First, this is the only recorded miracle that Jesus performed for friends and family. Elsewhere, he seems to dismiss any special significance for family: "Whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Mtt. 12:50). On another occasion, when returning to Nazareth, we are told Jesus was so "amazed by their lack of faith ... he could work no miracles there" (Mk 6:5f.).

Second, there is the extraordinary interchange between Jesus and his mother, Mary. It is Mary who confronts her son with the problem: "They have no wine!" We need to note, at this point, Jesus had not given any indication of special powers. Next, we cannot help but notice Jesus' annoyance in stating his time had not yet come. But Mary, unperturbed, tells the waiter: "Do whatever he tells you". We know the rest of the story: Jesus not only turns water into wine, but it is the best possible wine.

The human dimension of this story is compelling. Jesus and his disciples know how to celebrate life. No doubt they told yarns, sang songs and danced well into the night. But the time would come when they would face a crisis and be asked to lay down their lives. Interestingly, the next time we hear of Mary in John's gospel is at Jesus' crucifixion. Just as Mary is present to witness the beginning of Jesus' public life at Cana, she is also there to witness what is, for John, the birth of the Church at Calvary.

We are similarly living in a time of transition – what Pope Francis calls a "change of era" – when the old wine seems to be running out. Like Mary, we are being asked to place our vulnerable trust in Jesus who, with the gift of the Spirit, is the new wine for our age. Like the first disciples and early Christians, we know we live in a time of human and political crisis that also embroils society and church. We can only but trust in God who alone is able to turn the water of our fears into the new wine of God's creative presence and enduring love.

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### SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

St Finbar's Parish hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.