



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 19 January 2025 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year C

Dear Parishioners

We are well established in what the Church calls "Ordinary Time", the 34 weeks of the year outside the "seasons" of Advent, Lent or Easter. But the events of this Sunday's Gospel are Extraordinary! There is a wedding in Cana. These celebrations would last for days as the guests would have travelled on foot and donkey from all around and expected to be fed and watered for two or three days at least. Like our weddings, they were a chance to catch up with relatives and friends, and this in an age without telephone, e mail or even WhatsApp.

Jesus, His followers and Mother were in the wedding celebrations when a social disaster started to unfold. No more wine! This would have brought shame and acrimony on the happy couple and their family. What...travel all this way and drink water? People would have talked and gossiped about this for years.

Wine plays such a fundamental role in the Old Testament. It represents joy, happiness, vitality...the blessings of Almighty God. To run dry at what was supposed to be one of life's highlights... Mary, the watchful mother, spots the problem and gently brings it to her son's attention. At first, Jesus seems a little irked, but wise Mother Mary simply says: " Do what He says." She knows. She heard the angel, she watched in amazement as first dirty old shepherds then rich men with sumptuous gifts threw themselves down before the baby in the manger. She looked up and saw the star that shone in glory as they fled the country ahead of Herod' s murderous men. " Do what He says." The water becomes wine, gallons of it, the bridegroom is heartily congratulated and the party continues.

Soon there will be another meal, this time in an Upper room of Jerusalem. There Jesus will take the wine and change it into His Blood. "Take this all of you...this is my blood, the blood of the New Covenant..." Jesus becomes the Bridegroom at the Eternal Feast, the Church His Bride. Every Eucharist celebrates His Sacrifice, His Death and Resurrection and His Victory over Sin and Death. " Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb" We say this as we gaze upon the Host raised up as He was raised up on the Cross at Calvary. Let us rejoice like those wedding guests and thank Him. Let us never grow cold and indifferent to that Love offered up on the altar of the Cross for the forgiveness of our sins and the healing of our souls.

God bless everyone Fr Clive

Parish Notices

Masses next week Holy Trinity: 915am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and Rosary for Peace on Friday

Masses at St Teresa's next week: 915am Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

This week: all classes are up and running. Mary Prior and Nareen Bowers are doing a wonderful job with a parish room full of First Communion children and Mums. Soon we will be celebrating with them and their families in both churches as they receive the Lord sacramentally in Holy Eucharist for the very first time. What a joy for all!

The licence for the Film Club has been applied for and as soon as it is granted we can publish the programme. My thanks to Ben Dytor at St Teresas and Declan Soper at Holy Trinity for taking this on.

Father Clive will distribute the Jubilee booklets sent to both parishes as we start to focus on 2025 a Holy Year and prepare for the parishes' Mission in July.

In January we pray with Pope Francis for the right to an education: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Looking ahead to 2025...Wine Tasting 31 January 2025 – Tickets will be on sale after Mass this weekend - £20 each. We are grateful to Juliet and James Byrne for being our hosts again at their home on New Street opposite the park. Funds raised will go towards medical research in memory of the lovely Tere Byrne.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

