

Locum's Line-Outs – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – John 2:1-11

## The Season of Epiphany

the Ah-Ha moments of the in-breaking of God.



I think this is my favourite depiction of the Wedding at Cana. It's by the Nicaraguan artist Esperanza Guevara.

You have to look for Jesus – there he is in the far-right middle ground with a man who looks to be filling the big water-jars with water. Meanwhile the rest of the party goes on – most people totally unaware of what is going on there off stage.

If you do an internet search for Art for the Wedding at Cana most of them seems to have Jesus front and centre, the hero riding in to save the day for the hosts of the wedding – but that's not the way Evangelist John tells the story – only the servants know how the best wine came to be. What was plain becomes mystery.

It's not the way Matthew and Luke tell it either – shepherds on a hill at night are visited by angels while the rest of the country slumbers; magi in a distant land see a star and are curious enough to follow the sign.

God's grace and generosity are played out in the midst of ordinary life, ordinary relationships – right in the middle of our lives.

Remember the words of Mary Oliver in *How to Live Life* I'm using during Epiphany?

*Pay Attention,  
Be astonished,  
Tell it about it.*

We could beat ourselves up, tell ourselves that we must sharpen our physical and spiritual antenna. But there's not much grace in that. Instead, why not check out this powerful video by the Benedictine Br Steindal-Rast <http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=428> Then perhaps we'll make gratefulness the core of our lives and bless others as we are blessed.

N.T. Wright asks a pertinent question: *When we leave church ... do people mistake us for wedding guests? As party goes?*

**If Jesus could transform common water into wedding wine,  
spit and dirt into new sight,  
troubled sea into a pathway,  
well water into living water,  
could Christ transform the waters of my life  
shallow, murky, polluted, stagnant, sour  
into a shower of blessing?**

And a quote from the historian Richard Weaver: "The trouble with humanity is that it forgets to read the minutes of the last meeting." Weaver R., *Ideas Have Consequences* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1948), p. 176.

**Bountiful God, whose Son revealed his glory at Cana of Galilee:  
help us to believe and obey, so that, as our Saviour promised,  
we may be filled with the wine of new life  
and show forth his joy and love;  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Shalom

*Valerie*  
Locum Priest  
0487 117 662