



*This week's Revd. Morris' message: **I wonder how many miracles we would witness if we simply did what Jesus asks us to do?***



Today's Gospel narrates Jesus' Miracle at the Wedding at Cana which John noted was His **First Sign** [namely, a manifestation of His Glory in order that others, particularly the Disciples, may believe in Him]. This Sign is jam packed with important insights into Jesus' unfolding earthly ministry but also contains many puzzling aspects with which we are called to wrestle.

Clearly, the Sign contains a robust confirmation of the importance of marriage, of relationships [we can safely assume that Jesus was in some way related to the Bride or Groom and was thus keen to ensure that

their marriage celebrations were not marred by a 'dry bar'] and also that Jesus comes to bring into our lives an incredible abundance of joyous Blessings [at least 120 gallons of the finest wine? This Jesus is no temperance miser!]

However, more puzzling is Jesus' interaction with Mary in this reading. John noted later that he had a tough time working out what to include in his Gospel [John 21:25] so we can assume that he particularly wanted this interaction with Mary highlighted. Further, how puzzling it is that John [Mary's 'son', whose adoption was orchestrated by Jesus himself from the cross and who thereafter personally looked after and cared for her - see John 19: 26+27] records Jesus' potentially harsh words directed at Mary [was it a rebuke?] Even more puzzling is that John does not mention Mary by name at all in his Gospel, just calling her 'Jesus' mother'.

Some commentators see this interaction as indeed a rebuke and a reminder that we are not to seek to tell God what to do in order to ease our way through life [let alone as a means of avoiding social embarrassment]. Others interpret Jesus' words in a kinder light noting that 'Woman' was often used as a means of affectionate address by a man to a woman in those times [e.g. note this term's use elsewhere in the Gospels see John 4:21; Matthew 15:28; Luke 22:57] and that, notwithstanding the words used by Jesus, there appears to have been a tacit understanding between He and Mary that Jesus would be taking action to remedy the situation - hence Mary's words to the servants to be ready to act upon His instructions. Some other commentators have suggested that perhaps Mary had changed Jesus's mind, or even that Jesus performed the miracle simply because Mary asked Him too ... and He wished to simply please His beloved Mother.

Another suggestion looks to how the expression '**my hour**' is used by John elsewhere in his Gospel [e.g. relating to 'Last times' see 4:21, 23; 5:25, 28; or to Jesus' role as Saviour and Lord through his death, resurrection and ascension see 7:30; 8:20; 12:23; 13:1; 17:1] So, according to this view, no human being, not even his mother, can determine Jesus' 'hour', that is, the saving work he does to restore the relationship between humanity and

God. God alone determines when and how Jesus' 'hour' becomes a reality in the world (see 12:27-28; 13:1, 3; 17:1-5).

Well, what does this all mean for us today?

Whatever your interpretation, It is clear that, from the outset, that Mary had an unshakeable faith that ***Jesus could produce wine by an instantaneous miracle.*** [There would be no time to nip out to the non existent local bottle shop!] Further, ***John credits Mary with being the originating inspiration for Jesus' first sign.***



So, *I wonder if we in our deepest being truly believe that our God is a **God of abundance just waiting for us to ask and rely upon Him for what we need in order to follow Him?** I also wonder if we always **follow Mary's admonition to "Do whatever Jesus says to us?"** And if we did do this ...*I wonder how many miracles we would then witness as a result?**

Gospel reading: John 2:1-11

Some resources to dig deeper: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/narrative-lectionary/wedding-at-cana/commentary-on-john-21-11-3#:~:text=For John, Jesus' miracles are,as the disciples demonstrate here.;> <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/how-mary-influenced-the-gospel-of-john> ;

Upcoming Parish Activities: Midweek service Wednesday 10:30 am. All regular parish activities are in recess.

Today's Notices Highlights: Video Training available; **Calendars** available \$20; **AGM #2 16/2/25** Reports to Revd Morris before 7/2/25; **Behind the scenes thx: Our IT Gurus! Wanted - Op Shop Volunteers and Treasurer 2IC.**

Readings for Next Sunday: Nehemiah 8:1-10; Psalm 19; Clyda - 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31; John 4:14-21.

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Parish website : <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/>

Parish Private Facebook site : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142> ;

Public Site: <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsHollandPark> ;

Tipper's Treasure's Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.