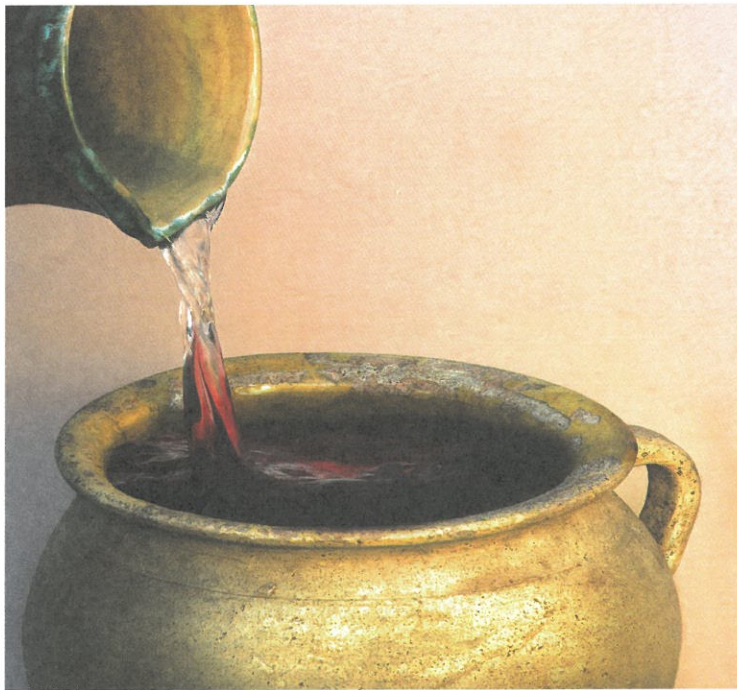


SUNDAY PLUS

Spread hope

“From his fulness...”

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.



I recently officiated at the wedding of a young couple who felt they somehow knew me better than they knew the new parish priest. I readily obliged and the service went exactly as planned. The trouble started at the reception when, after much wine had been consumed, a fight broke out involving several people from both families and was only stopped when the mothers of the bride and groom stood on a table together and screamed for quiet. In the silence that followed, they jauntily descended and ordered drinks for everyone.

The danger at this wedding was not that the group were running out of wine but some guests were running out of respect and courtesy.

This was reversed, thanks to the authority of two brave mothers. At the wedding feast in Cana, it is the authority of the mother of Jesus that leads towards the solution of the lack of wine when she instructs the servants: “Do whatever he tells you.” The steward is astonished at the quality of the water turned into wine – not the plonk you might suspect to be served at this point, but gallons of the choicest wine.

This illustrates a beautiful point in John’s Prologue: “From his fulness we have all received, grace upon grace.” That includes all of us.

Fr Denis McBride’s many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk.

The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love.

Pope Francis

Bountiful generosity

By Neil Foley

The story of the wedding feast at Cana is so familiar to most of us that we can be at risk of glossing over it. We hear the words of a miracle taking place and of Mary prompting her son into action. But maybe we see this in a different time or for other people. Sometimes we miss the most important part of this miracle – the sheer generosity of God. There were

six stone water jars holding up to thirty gallons each. Jesus created what today would be 900 bottles of wine! Can you imagine holding a party and having 900 bottles of wine? It would be completely over the top! Yet this is God’s creative and redeeming power, a power that is so over the top it provides everything we need and a love that has no end. And this is what is at the heart of a Jubilee Year, where faith, hope and love abound.

Neil Foley is from Wexford, Ireland, where he lives with his wife, Helen, and twin girls, Zélie and Martha. He works full-time as an environmental scientist but is also a lay missionary with the Redemptorists, a retreat facilitator and a spiritual writer.

Jubilee 2025

Friday 24 – Sunday 26 January: Jubilee of the World of Communication

“Emails, text messages, social networks and chats can also be fully human forms of communication. It is not technology which determines whether or not communication is authentic, but rather the human heart and our capacity to use wisely the means at our disposal. Social networks can facilitate relationships and promote the good of society, but they can also lead to further polarisation and division between individuals and groups. The digital world is a public square, a meeting-place

where we can either encourage or demean one another, engage in a meaningful discussion or unfair attacks. I pray that this Jubilee Year, lived in mercy, may open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; and that it may eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discriminations (Misericordiae Vultus, 23).”

Pope Francis, Message for the 50th World Communications Day, 2016

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  Amen.



Today:
Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11

Monday:
1 Samuel 1:1-8
Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday:
1 Samuel 1:9-20
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday:
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday:
1 Samuel 4:1-11
Mark 1:40-45

Friday:
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday:
Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22
Mark 16:15-18

Next Sunday:
Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21