

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

MAKING WINE

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11)

John's account of the Wedding at Cana comes immediately after the first disciples followed Jesus. When the wine runs out, Jesus replenishes the supply. In verse 11 John explains why he starts with this story: it 'is the first of the signs by which Jesus revealed his glory and led his disciples to believe in him'. It is no accident that the first *sign* takes place at a wedding feast. In Jewish thought the wedding feast is a way of speaking about the reign of God, when the Messiah will preside at the banquet.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *making wine*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (John 2: 7-10)

Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.'
And they filled them up to the brim.
He said to them, 'Now draw some out,
and take it to the chief steward.'
So they took it.
When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,
and did not know where it came from
(though the servants who had drawn the water knew),
the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
'Everyone serves the good wine first,
and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.
But you have kept the good wine until now.'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
your gift of new wine brought joy
to the wedding feast.
Make us ready to take our place at the feast,
so we may share the joy of your kingdom;
for you are our God.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 2: 1-11

The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on John's account of the wedding at Cana (John 2: 1-11):

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how do you read the significance of the mother of Jesus being there at the wedding feast?
- what do you make of Jesus' activities?
- what do you make of the steward's verdict on the wine?
- how do you understand this as being the first of Jesus 'signs'?
- how can we best understand the narrative for today?

Using your Bible

Explore images of the wedding feast in the synoptic Gospels:

- Matthew 22: 1-14
- Luke 14: 7-14

Explore the idea of signs in John's Gospel:

- John 4: 54 (second sign)
- John 6: 14 (fourth sign)
- John 11: 45 (sixth sign)
- John 20: 30-31

Exploring online

- explore signs in John's Gospel
- explore wedding at Cana in art
- explore how to make wine

Drawing on experience

- reflect on your experiences of wedding feasts
- reflect on your experiences of making wine
- reflect on your experiences of wine in eucharistic liturgy

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Creating and making

- create a collage of images of the wedding at Cana
- begin the process of making wine
- make a poster of signs from John's Gospel
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the wedding at Cana





Engaging with children and young people

Things to think about

- Think about celebrations you have been invited to.
- Who was the celebration for?
- What kind of food and entertainment was provided?
- Did you wear special clothes?
- What do you remember most about the occasion?

Things to do

- Make a “pairs” style memory game using cards with red or blue backs. Spread them out on the floor, coloured side down and take it in turns to turn two cards over. If the colours match you can keep them but if they don't then turn them back over and play passes to the next person.
- Whilst we cannot encourage children to drink wine, why not have a go at making some mocktails using different fruit juices and fizzy water or lemonade? You could create a recipe book or even a cocktail bar with decorations and pretend you are visiting an exotic destination!
- Make a paper plate activity where the water will turn into wine!

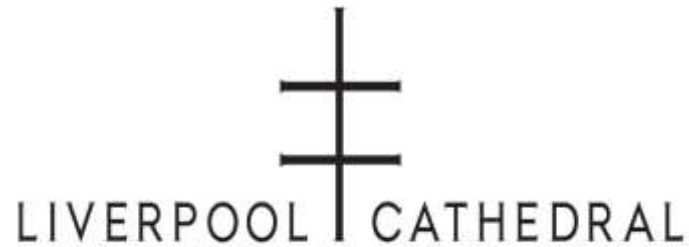
You will need:	A paper plate, a piece of paper or card, colouring pencils/crayons, scissors and a split pin/paper fastener.
	Draw your jug/bottle design on the paper plate and colour.
	Carefully cut out the top of your jug where the liquid will be.
	Draw a circle on the paper making sure that when under the plate, it will cover the hole you have just cut. Colour half of the circle blue (water) and half purple (wine).
	Place the paper plate on top and secure with the paper fastener.

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Spin the plate and turn water into wine!

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EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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