



City Pastoral REGION

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Inner Newcastle Parish: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill; St Laurence O'Toole Church, Broadmeadow. **Mayfield Parish:** Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY 2022

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr Peter Thoai
Fr Matthew Muller
Fr John Vo

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team: Contact the Parish Office

Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
(02) 4979 1116

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

Parish Bulletin: Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.



The story of the wedding in Cana provides an interesting image of the family and community life of Jesus and Mary. These are country people who have a wide network of friends and relations. Mary, as a Jewish mother, clearly has a lot of influence with her son. Here, in this very ordinary place and time, Jesus gives the first sign of his glory – not because of an overt call from God but because of a poignant human dilemma and a request from a loving mother

Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.

THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

Second Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—17th January

Feast of St Anthony

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—18th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday—19th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

Thursday—20th January

Memorial of St Sebastian and Saint Fabian

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton—CANCELLED

Friday—21st January

Memorial of St Agnes

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @
The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—22nd January

Memorial of St Vincent

9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
(followed by Reconciliation)

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

6:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—23rd January

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

7.30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *

11:00am Mass @ The Junction (*Italian*)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (*Polish*)

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West (*Vietnamese*)

* *Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—
www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Neh 8:2-6. 8-10

Ezra reads from the book of the Law.

1 Cor 12:12-30

One body, many members

Lk 1:1-4. 4:14-21

Jesus announces the fulfilment of Isaiah.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Devotions to Divine Mercy will take place on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm in Christ the King Church, Mayfield West. All welcome.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 6th February @ 6pm to discuss
Wild Abandon by Emily Bitto. If you would
like to participate in book club meetings,
please email
newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

I ❤️
Book Club

VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat resumes in February.
To participate, please email the Parish Office.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2022 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

A child's catholic faith journey began with the Sacrament of Baptism and continues by the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

The preparations for these sacraments in the Inner Newcastle Parish run between February and June of every year and is designed for children going into Year, 4, 5 or 6 in 2022. Preparations are done as a family with online activities and volunteer work within the community.

Enrolments are now open for the 2022 program. If you are interested in being apart of the program next year please visit the parish website and complete the online enrolment form.

<https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/sacramental-enrolment-form/>

For more information please contact the office on 49791101 or newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Tomislav Kefecsek,
Iolanda Colanzi, Joseph Benton, Br Cyril
Ronald Quinlan FMS, Br Emery (Noel) Nash
FMS



SICK: Maree Halbert, Betty Stott, Carlo Rossi, Kath Murray, Veronica McCann, Wayne Bishop, Peter Skinner, Carmel Blair, Peter Keddle

Names may be placed here by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

REFLECTION

by Fr Richard Leonard

Church architecture often tells in stone the story of theology. By the ninth century as Christian Churches in Europe became longer and higher, a shift was occurring in theology as well. Coinciding with the engineering abilities of the builders, theologians reinstated a more severe and distant theology about God. God was 'immortal, invisible, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes'. Jesus had ascended his regal home in the tabernacle which over the centuries got further and further away from where the people stood or sat.

One of the extraordinary things that occurs in the layout of Churches of this time is that as the tabernacle goes back, the Marian altar comes forward, often half way down the church where people could have easy access to it.

Today's Gospel was used as the justification for this theological and architectural movement. Mary is seen to intercede on behalf of the bride and groom and ask Jesus to do what he can. This is the first sign in the Gospel of John and Jesus is reluctant to perform it, but because his mother asks, he does it.

The changing of the water into wine is not just a sign that Mary and Jesus like a good party! It is a sign of the Kingdom of God where joy and life are in abundance, where shame ends and all tears are wiped away. It is no accident that in John's gospel the mother of Jesus is present at this first sign and remains faithful until the end, right up to the culmination of all the signs: his being lifted up on the cross. Mary not only asks for a sign, she understands that it will cost something for Jesus to give it and for her to witness it.

So for us, the wedding feast at Cana is a taste of the fullness of life we celebrate here every Sunday. The Eucharist is always and everywhere a first course in the eternal banquet of heaven. But it is also an invitation to see beyond the signs, to the faithful relationships that require sacrificial love and years of fidelity.

All parents who sacrifice so much for their children, all spouses who remain faithful and good to their wife or husband, all friends who attend to their companions with devotion and care, share in the Kingdom of God and are the signs of Christ's presence in our world. Every time we are kind, Cana occurs again.

Sometimes these actions can be very lonely and the cost can be high. Today's Gospel, and the traditions of the Church that flow from it, tell us we are not alone, especially when the going gets tough.

What I like best about our belief in intercessory prayer, in the healthiest devotions in honour of the Mother

of Jesus and in our belief in the martyrs and the saints is that they take seriously the companionship of God's family that transcends time and space.

Through our common Christian faith we are connected to millions of believers who have battled with similar, and sometimes greater, struggles than we endure and yet remained faithful to the end. Led by Mary, who never wants us to feel ashamed or embarrassed, they are our cheer squad in the stands of heaven willing us on in the race of life, giving us a few pointers on the best preparation, the pitfalls on the way and how to maximise our performance as we strive to do our best and be our best.

Welcome to Cana where one course is richer than the last. And the wine only gets better with age.

© Richard Leonard SJ

CHILDREN'S MISSION PARTNERS

Raised another \$600, making the total to date \$38,000.

THE CHUCKLE



A DJ polled guests at a wedding to see who had been married the longest. It turned out to be the bride's grandparent. The DJ asked them what advice they would give to the newly married couple?

The grandmother said, "The three most important words in a marriage are, 'You're probably right.'"

Everyone then looked expectantly at her husband, who said. "She's probably right."

THANKS



The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to sincerely thank the parishioners of Stockton for their generosity to both the Christmas Appeal (\$570.00) and the Advent collection for Christmas Hampers.

Seventeen hampers in all were delivered to residents of Stockton and were greatly appreciated. Also many thanks for your gifts to Seafarers who do it extremely tough being away from their families at such a special time of the year. We trust you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish you all a safe and happy New Year.

Updates from the other conferences are forthcoming.

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading Is 62:1-5

*As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will
your God rejoice in you.*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3

(R.) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:4-11

*One and the same spirit distributes different
gifts as he chooses.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 2:1-11

*The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana
in Galilee.*

Communion Antiphon

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my
thirst.

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PASTORAL LETTER FROM FR ANDREW

Fr Andrew's letter concerning the future of our Parishes has been available on the website for a few weeks:

<https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/2021/12/09/pastoral-letter-future-challenges-and-directions/>

You are encouraged (implored) to please send feedback, which you can do in any one of three ways.

1. Via a dedicated email address for any feedback from the Pastoral Letter CityRegionFeedback@outlook.com
2. Via a form on the Cathedral website, which will automatically send to the above email address.
3. Communicate with members of the Pastoral Council directly, either before or after Mass, or via their contact information provided here:

Gail Lovell: Email: thelovells@bigpond.com
Mobile 0417210171

Janet Tully: Mobile 0435518671

Maureen Frize: Home 40237011 Mobile 0466681773
Email maureenfrize96@gmail.com

Alicia Jenkins: alicia.jenkins@mn.catholic.edu.au

Amanda Mohr: amanda.mohr@mn.catholic.edu.au

Mark De Souza: use the parish feedback email

AUSTRALIA DAY



The regional Mass on Wednesday,
January 26th is in Sacred Heart Cathedral at 9.30am
(the usual weekday Mass at 8:15 is cancelled that day)
The Parish office is closed.

GOSPEL FOCUS

The best wine

The steward comments that the best wine had been kept until the end of the wedding celebration – a clever use of an image for Jesus. Remembering the use of wedding imagery to describe the relationship between the people of Israel and God, the wedding feast is celebration of that relationship, and at the very heart of the celebration and the relationship is Jesus. He is the best wine that is kept until the end – the ‘finishing touch’ to a magnificent celebration, just as he is the ‘finishing touch’ to the relationship between God and God’s people to that point.



THE IRISH LANGUAGE – GAEILGE!

Are you interested in speaking Irish? I am of Irish ancestry, speak a little of the language of my ancestors (Níl agam ach beagáinín Gaeilge) – (Phonetic: Neel UGGum och byagerneen Gwalegger) – ‘I have (speak) only a little Irish’.

Are you Irish born and a native speaker, have Irish relatives who may or may not speak their native tongue? Or, have no links to Ireland at all but still have an interest in learning Irish?

All are welcome!

Many people believe that the Irish language is exceedingly difficult to learn but – Níl fál go spéir é (Phonetic: Neel fall go spareh a) – ‘It’s not a hedge as high as the sky!’ Not impossible and can be great fun.

For further information, please contact Seán Ó Áirchinneach. Please leave a message on Mobile: 0424 140262 or email me: seanoairchinneach@gmail.com

"AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY YEAR"

19 MARCH 2021- 26 JUNE 2022

The “Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Family Year” is an initiative of Pope Francis, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.

Over the course of ten monthly episodes, hear the Holy Father talk about each of the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia, along with the testimonies of different families who will share some aspects of their daily lives.

This initiative is a joint collaboration between the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and Vatican News, and aims to facilitate the reading of the Apostolic Exhortation, with the aid of downloadable material prepared for personal and community reflection.

To access this resource: <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia/iniziativa-e-risorse/10-video-amoris-laetitia.html>

FAITH MATTERS | SHARE YOUR STORY

Each fortnight Faith Matters aims to explore individuals and communities rich experience of their faith.

We invite you to share your faith story.

Everyone has a story.

No matter how ordinary yours may seem, we all have a story to tell and you never know what it can mean to someone until you share it.

You could use the following questions as a guide.

- Who are the people who guided your faith journey? How did they do that?
- Describe some defining moments of your faith journey? What made them significant?
- How has your faith been reflected in your work, your hobbies, your values, your choices, and your priorities at various times in your life?
- In what ways has your faith guided and supported you over your lifetime? How has your church/faith community guided and supported you?

We hope to use the stories as part of a Faith Matters.

For more information or if you would like to be interviewed, please contact

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au or send your story to shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au.

REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Today's gospel ends: 'He let his glory be seen.' Where? In a nondescript Galilean village at a wedding feast about to become a disaster for the couple. The wine is running out. A fiasco is impending. A hero was needed to step in and save the situation. Jesus and Mary are good candidates for hero status.

But, it is the servants who are the unsung heroes. They take a huge risk. They are going to look utterly stupid if they give the steward water to ladle out. Nevertheless, they follow the stranger's directions exactly and end up serving the best of wines, saving the couple from terrible embarrassment.

The Divine Glory is not going to enter people's lives with great pyrotechnics. Rather, when we do as Jesus requires, even if it looks ridiculous to the crowd, His healing and enhancing Presence can enter and save a situation of apparent disaster.

We could pause for a moment to pray for a certain naïve trust in the Lord as we follow his directions, so that Cana may enter someone's life, so that His glory may be seen.

© Fr Michael Tate

ORDINARY TIME

While not regarded as a specific season, the weeks that are outside the periods of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter are known as Ordinary Time.

There are 34 weeks of Ordinary Time which, for the most part, incorporate semicontinuous readings of the Gospel of each liturgical cycle. They feature a presentation of the teachings and mission of Christ; in Cycle A: Matthew, Cycle B: Mark and John, and in Cycle C: Luke.

There are two 'blocks' of Ordinary Time: the first falls between Christmas and Lent, the second is a longer period between Pentecost Sunday and Advent.

The weeks of Ordinary Time, like all in the Liturgical Year, revolve around the central day of Sunday, the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Why Is There No First Sunday in Ordinary Time?

In most years, the Sunday after Epiphany is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This feast displaces the 1st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Thus the first Sunday in the period of Ordinary Time is the Sunday that falls after the first week of Ordinary Time, which makes it the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time.

BACKGROUND

The exact location of Cana is not known. It is west of the Sea of Galilee. It is close enough to Nazareth and the area around the Jordan that Jesus, his mother and Jesus' disciples were all guests at the wedding.

The feast was a big part of the wedding custom. It would have been shameful for the host to run out of wine for his guests. Mary must have been well acquainted with the host because she saw it as her responsibility to help with the problem. She also seems to have charge over the servants since she gave them orders to obey Jesus. Perhaps this was a relative who was getting married.

It is interesting that Mary trusts Jesus to fix the problem. We know that he has not performed a public miracle before this time (verse 11). In what way did Mary know that Jesus would solve the problem? She may or may not have expected him to perform a miracle. Jesus knew that his power was not given to him for his own gratification. He reminds Mary that what she is asking him to do is not of the magnitude that his purpose on earth was.

Whatever Mary's expectations might have been, they were surpassed. Jesus miraculously produced some more wine. He ordered the servants to fill six stone water jars with water. These were not special jars. They were used to hold water used in ceremonies. The text says that the jars were quite large (verse 6).

Jesus then ordered the servants to take a sample from the jars. This was to be given to the man in charge of the banquet. When he tasted it – it was wine! The water had been miraculously turned to wine!

It was not just any wine – it was excellent wine. Usually guests were served the best wine at the beginning of the banquet. After they had been satisfied with wine then their taste was dulled. That is when the inferior (cheaper) wine was brought out. In this case the person in charge thought the bridegroom might have made a mistake. The wine that Jesus had produced was the best wine of the night.

The lesson from this miracle is more than just turning water to wine. Jesus used old containers that were used in ceremonial purification (verse 6). He filled the containers with something totally new and good. This was a good way for him to introduce the purpose of his ministry. The Jewish nation was the container by which the Messiah would be poured out to the world.

Another parallel is the fact that drinking too much wine dulls us to know the difference between right and wrong. The wedding guests had been drinking so long that they probably didn't appreciate the beautiful taste of the new wine. The Jews had practiced their religion mindlessly for so long that they did not appreciate the Messiah.

POPE FRANCIS'S General Audience

St Peter's Square Wednesday, 8 June 2016

22. The first sign of Mercy: Cana (Jn 2:1-11)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good Morning!

Before beginning the catechesis, I should like to greet a group of couples who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries. They really are the “good wine” of the family! Yours is a witness that newlyweds — whom I will greet afterwards — and young people must learn from. It is a beautiful testimony. Thank you for your witness.

After having commented on several parables about mercy, today we shall ponder on Jesus’ first miracle, which John the Evangelist calls “signs”, because Jesus doesn’t perform them in order to excite wonder but to reveal the love of the Father. The first of these miraculous signs is actually recounted by John (2:1-11) and takes place at Cana in Galilee. It is a kind of “gateway”, on which are engraved the words and expressions that illuminate the entire mystery of Christ and open the hearts of the disciples to the faith. Let us look at a few of them.

In the introduction we find the expression “*Jesus with his disciples*” (v. 2). Those whom Jesus called had to follow him, he bound to himself in a community and now, like a single family, they are all invited to a wedding. Thereby initiating his public ministry at the wedding at Cana, Jesus reveals himself as the spouse of the People of God, proclaimed by the prophets, and reveals to us the depth of the relationship that unites us to Him: it is the new Covenant of love. What is at the foundation of our faith? An act of mercy by which Jesus binds us to him. And the Christian life is the response to this love, it is like the history of two people in love. God and man meet, seek, find, celebrate and love one another: just like the lovers in the Song of Songs. Everything else comes as a result of this relationship. The Church is the family of Jesus into which he pours his love; it is this love that the Church safeguards and desires to give to all.

In the context of the Covenant, we are also to understand Our Lady’s observation: “*They have no wine*” (v. 3). How can one celebrate a wedding feast and make merry without what the prophets indicated as a typical element of the messianic banquet (cf. Am 9:13-14; Jl 2:24; Is 25:6)? Water is necessary for life, but wine expresses the abundance of a banquet and the joy of a feast. This wedding feast was short of wine; the newlyweds are ashamed of this. But just imagine ending a wedding feast drinking tea; it would

be a shame. Wine is necessary for a feast. By transforming into wine the water of the jars used “for the Jewish rites of purification” (Jn 2:6), Jesus preforms an eloquent sign: he transforms the Law of Moses into the Gospel, bearer of joy. As John states elsewhere: “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (1:17).

The words Mary addresses to the servants come to crown the wedding of Cana: “*Do whatever he tells you*” (v. 5). It is curious: these are her last words recounted by the Gospels: they are the legacy that she hands down to us. Today too Our Lady says to us all: “Whatever he tells you — Jesus tells you, do it”. It is the legacy that she has left us: it is beautiful! It is an expression that recalls the formula of faith used by the people of Israel at Sinai in response to the promises of the Covenant: “All that the Lord has spoken we will do!” (Ex 19:8). And indeed at Cana the servants obey. “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 steward of the feast’. So they took it” (Jn 2:7-8). At this wedding, the New Covenant is truly articulated and to the servants of the Lord, that is to all the Church, is entrusted a new mission: “Do whatever he tells you!”. To serve the Lord means to listen and to put into practice his Word. It is the simple but essential recommendation of the Mother of Jesus and it is the programme of life of the Christian. For each one of us, to draw from the jar is equivalent to entrusting oneself to the Word of God in order to experience its effectiveness in life. Thus, together with the steward of the banquet who had tasted the water-become-wine, we too can exclaim: “you have kept the good wine until now” (v. 10). Yes, the Lord continues to reserve the best wine for our salvation, just as it continues to flow from the pierced side of the Lord.

The conclusion of the narrative sounds like a judgment: “This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him” (v. 11). The wedding feast at Cana is more than a simple account of Jesus’ first miracle. Like a treasure chest, He guards the secret of his Person and the purpose of his coming: the awaited Groom starts off the wedding that is fulfilled in the Paschal Mystery. At this wedding Jesus binds his disciples to himself in a new and final Covenant. At Cana Jesus’ disciples become his family and at Cana the faith of the Church is born. We are all invited to the wedding feast, because the new wine will never run short!

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

We put our faith in Jesus

Mt 2:1-12

I	S	G	U	B	R	I	D	E	G	R	O	O	M
K	E	K	U	S	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S
W	I	N	E	K	K	G	H	Y	F	W	I	V	H
V	B	T	D	T	M	N	E	M	E	J	L	L	U
I	G	G	E	G	R	O	L	Y	C	Z	U	T	M
W	A	C	Z	T	D	F	A	I	T	H	I	I	O
O	L	A	X	B	L	V	F	Q	U	H	M	D	J
P	L	X	O	I	A	K	C	N	J	I	D	N	I
S	O	X	S	F	I	L	L	E	D	W	R	J	S
H	N	A	M	Z	S	T	O	N	E	I	A	A	G
U	S	E	B	Q	P	L	E	N	T	Y	N	R	Q
D	O	G	E	Y	L	U	I	S	C	J	K	S	S
A	E	S	C	M	D	K	U	A	K	P	V	Z	J
K	P	P	Y	F	E	A	S	T	G	L	R	M	K
H	B	D	Q	A	O	W	E	D	D	I	N	G	T

Try to find these words:

bridegroom
 disciples
 drank
 faith
 feast
 filled
 gallons
 jars
 plenty
 stone
 wedding
 wine

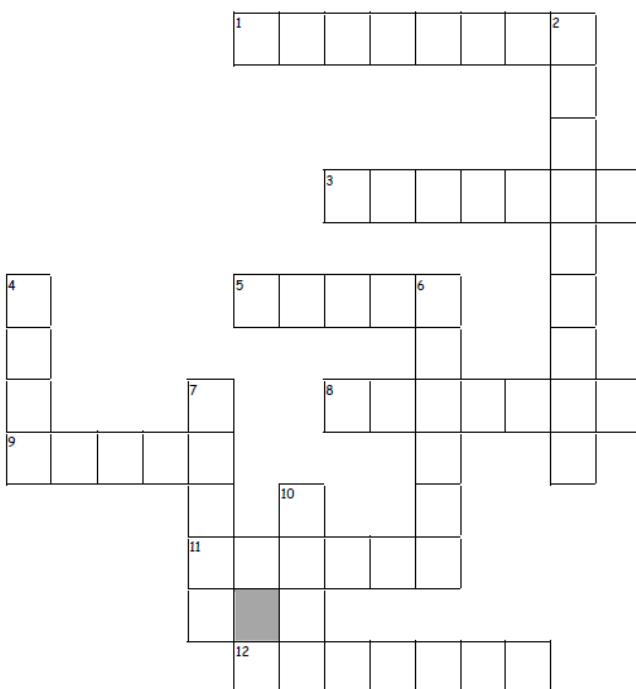
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C [N02ORSUC_2004_WSG.rtf]

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CROSSWORD

God's Spirit has given us many gifts

Is 62:1-3
 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a R.v.3
 1Cor 12:4-11
 Mt 2:1-12



Across

- 1: amazing feats performed by Jesus
- 3: to win a battle
- 5: presents
- 8: a measurement of liquids
- 11: Father, Son and Holy _ _ _ _ _
- 12: marriage celebration

Down

- 2: glittering
- 4: containers for storing liquids
- 6: quiet
- 7: a celebration with food and drink
- 9: a small rock
- 10: Jesus turned water into this type of drink

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C [N02ORSUC_2004_CW3.rtf]

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