

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 24th January, Third Sunday of Epiphany

Old Testament: Genesis 14. 17-20

Psalm: Psalm 128

New Testament: Revelation 19. 6-10

Gospel: John 2. 1-11

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Rev David Campbell

The account of the events which took place at the wedding at Cana is surely one of the most extraordinary in the entire Christian Bible. Recounted only in John's Gospel, it therefore urges us to seek for a more profound meaning for what happened which goes beyond just the written words that have been preserved.

To find that more profound meaning we can ask ourselves some of the following questions and others which I have not included here. What does the story mean? Why is it included in the Fourth Gospel and not one of the others? How can the messages which it conveys influence and encourage Christian believers and others today? For me, I have believed different things about the story at different times in my life, things both complementary and equally at times contradictory.

As I write this, I tend to see the story as a remarkable parable of outlandish and even outrageous divine generosity. It depicts a situation of dire need, of potential domestic and social shame even, and it shows how, as so often, the Nazarene came to the rescue and made all the difference. To consider how the figure of Jesus is depicted as someone who somehow gives in abundance to those who ask today is surely just as challenging a proposition for us in our current circumstances, but one with which all should try to wrestle.

Collect for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly
grace, and in all our weakness sustain us
by your mighty power; through Jesus
Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

