

# The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour  
Mortimer West End

St Mary and St John  
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist  
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



John's Gospel 2: 1 - 11  
The Wedding at Cana  
by Jan Cornelisz Vermeyen

# The Parish Eucharist on

## The Third Sunday of Epiphany

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

online at zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

**Prayer Thought:** *Jesus brought friends to witness to the 'sign' at the wedding feast at Cana. Remember, St John's Gospel does not have miracles, but signs. It would be their first step in transformation to discipleship. Today we are called to 'witness' to that first 'sign.' Considering this Gospel sign can lead us to a deeper awareness of our own 'emptiness' as earthenware jars and our need to acknowledge the deficiencies and limitations that impoverish us; and of our need to be changed in 'capacity', openness and confidence. And when we reflect upon the 'relationships' in this story we can see how the 'water' of our relationships needs to be transformed into the new wine of those living, vital expressions of loyalty and cooperation which God wants from us to build the new future; into living expressions of authentic 'complimentarity' whereby we are able to listen to, receive, and be sent by the Word; into living expressions of availability to God - a constant condition throughout the Bible ('Here I am') - whereby we are 'available' to bear a new vitality to the world.*

*Mary exhorts us: 'Do whatever He tells you.' In other words, discern what Jesus wants of you, wholeheartedly embrace his will and do what he asks. How are we doing in these two areas? First, discerning the will of God can be hard for us because it requires our wholehearted attentiveness to his voice. God does not impose his will on us but instead he respectfully and quietly invites us to listen to him. And he waits until we give him our full attention and then reveals his will one step at a time. Yes, some things have been made clear to everybody through revelation- such as the avoidance of sin and the embrace of faith, hope and love. But still God calls each one of us personally to give him our full attention. Second, when we do discern God's will it's not always easy for us to wholeheartedly embrace it because he requires everything of us i.e. our 'obedience' in the total surrender of our self-centred wilfulness in order that we can be fulfilled by love. So, Mary's twofold invitation invites us to reflect upon how ready we are to listen to God and do his will. May we heed Mary's advice and learn to listen to him and do whatever he tells us. God bless, Paul*

# The Parish Eucharist

*The present rules and guidelines about attendance, singing & speaking in churches will be followed carefully.  
This Sunday only the priest and the zoom operator may be at St John's.*

**HYMN** *Sung by Viv Adler*

**Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)  
That sav'd a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.**

**Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

**Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease;  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.**

## **THE GATHERING AND GREETING**

*The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us. The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.*

Priest In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

## **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

*We call to mind our sins to repent of them / turn from them and to ask forgiveness of God and each other.*

*The Invitation to Confession*

Priest *The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ. cf Titus 2: 11*

My dear brothers and sisters, as we come together as God's family and prepare to celebrate the Eucharist, let us acknowledge and confess our sins and seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus our Saviour.

*A pause for silent reflection follows.*

Lord, we have sinned against you:

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your mercy and love.

All And grant us your salvation.

*The Absolution*

+ Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.

All Amen.

**THE GLORIA** *Sung by Rhona Johnson*

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*  
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*  
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.  
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*  
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

### **THE COLLECT**

*Our priest invites us to pray.*

Priest            Let us pray.

*Together we spend a few moments in reverent silence realising that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The priest 'collects' our prayerful thoughts into theme of this Christmas Day celebration in the Opening Prayer, which is either sung or said.*

Priest            Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs 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.

**All                Amen.**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind.*

*In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his word. We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern of his plan for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts' (The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).*

### **THE FIRST READING - The Revelation of John 19: 6 - 10.    Read by Peter Tanner**

Reader            A reading from The Revelation of St John.

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

‘Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God  
the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult  
and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready;

to her it has been granted to be clothed  
with fine linen, bright and pure' -  
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'  
And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

*At the end of the reading:*

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*Now we hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.*

**THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Sung by Sarah Theaker*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

'Mary said: Do whatever He tells you.'

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL READING - JOHN 2: 1 - 11.**

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you .**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.

*At the end of the Gospel*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**THE SERMON**

*We are a Eucharistic community in word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming and healing love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. Our priest now reflects with us on the readings of the day relating them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary life.*

*After the sermon there is a short period of silent reflection.*

**THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED**

*We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a 'thanksgiving people', a living community of his abiding love and care.*

All **We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world.**

**We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world.**

**We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. Amen**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION**

*We are invited to pray for the needs of the Church and all people. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his intercessions before the Father for the needs of his Church and of all people. Our intercessions flow from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.*

*This Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercession is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and for our benefice - our parishes, our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities and families; for the sick and all in pain, for all who are working on the front line at this time of Covid 19; and for the departed. And in communion with Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people to God's saving love.*

Priest            Let us pray for the Church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

*The deacon or leader continues.*

Heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith, strengthen Justin our Archbishop, Steven our bishop, Olivia our area bishop, our benefice, our Church schools of St Mary's and St John's, and all your Church's missions and ministries in the service of Christ, that we may be united in your grace and truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world...

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen, our Government and our District and Village Councils. Give wisdom to all in authority and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace that people everywhere may honour one another and seek the common good...

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son shared the life of a family: protect in your love our families, our friends, our neighbours, and this community of which we are a part and may we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us...

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit...; give them hope; and bring them the joy of your salvation...

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we remember before you all who have died recently ...

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we rejoice in the fellowship of Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all your saints and we commend ourselves and all your people to your unfailing love...

Priest            Merciful Father

**All                Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

*At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds carefully to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine in The Preparation of the Gifts we take our gifts to the Altar. Gifts or money for the poor and the Church's ministry to the poor are also presented. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful. 4) And in the giving of Holy Communion we receive the Body and Blood of Christ as the Apostles did from his hands. In this way Sunday by Sunday and day by day the Church carries out in loving obedience to his command what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.*

## **THE PEACE**

*We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another and pray for peace and unity of Luke 1.78,79.*

Priest To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole.  
*cf Colossians 3.14,15*

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you.**

### **THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR**

*The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

*The offerings of money is made and promised to support the ministry and work of the Church.*

*Taking the Gifts: The priest gives thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.*

**Priest BREAD**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

**WINE**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

**OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our gratitude and our dedication to your service.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

*The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts. The priest washes hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.*

### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

**We are all invited to draw near in prayer:**

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

**All May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Priest Amen.

Gracious Father, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said by the priest on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The Preface praises God for his mighty acts:*

And now we give you thanks because you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation, and have shown your Son Jesus Christ to be the light to the peoples.  
Therefore in our joy we sing to your glory with all the choirs of angels:

*The Acclamation Sung by Sarah Theaker*

**All**            **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*We pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.*

Priest        We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. He gave his life for us upon the cross. He shows us the way to live.  
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood. On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.  
He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

    'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

    'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this to remember me.'

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit upon us and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Mary, the Blessed Mother of our Lord, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist, and all your saints, we give you glory, through Jesus Christ and in the strength of your Holy Spirit, today and for ever.

**All**            **Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*The communion rite of the Church lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by love. We are confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Priest        Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

**All**            **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly:*

*May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.*

*'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)*

*Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the entire Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. Through the breaking of the host the Eucharist is seen more clearly as a sign of unity and charity since the one bread is being distributed among the members of one family of God.*

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

*The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer:*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you.*

## PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *cf. John 1: 29*

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds since then the sign of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when, for the time being, communion can only be given in one kind for those who can come to church. Whilst others join faithfully online. Please God, may we all soon be able to come together again to receive Holy Communion under both kinds at the Lord's table. The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ.*

*When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:*

+ **Amen.**

## ANTHEM DURING HOLY COMMUNION *Sung by Viv Bailey*

**Ave Maria** (Schubert)

*The vessels are cleansed and put away. You may wish to join with the priest who prays quietly:*

*Lord, may these gifts give me purity of heart. May they bring me healing and strength, now and ever. Amen*

*After Holy Communion we may keep a further period of silence.*

## PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray

*The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us to God's kingdom. All pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.*

Priest Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments,  
shine with the radiance of his glory,  
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

## THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.

### THE CONCLUDING RITE

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **and also with you.**

### THE BLESSING

Priest May the light of the gospel of Christ shine in your lives and fill you with his joy and peace;  
+ and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

**All**                    Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**    *Sung by Gwen Adshead*

**Thy hand, O God, has guided  
Thy flock from age to age;  
The wondrous tale is written,  
Full clear, on every page;  
Our fathers owned Thy goodness,  
And we their deeds record;  
And both of this bear witness,  
'One Church, one Faith, one Lord.'**

**Thy mercy will not fail us,  
Nor leave Thy work undone;  
With Thy right hand to help us,  
The victory shall be won;  
And then, by men and angels,  
Thy Name shall be adored,  
And this shall be their anthem,  
'One Church, one Faith, one Lord.'**

