Second Sunday of the Year C 2022

Jesus never wanted anyone to fail. I can’t think of any examples in the Gospels where he allowed anyone’s good endeavours to fail. At our meanest moments we can sometimes wish the plans of those around us not to succeed, even when there is nothing wrong with them. Jesus is the opposite of mean-spiritedness - as he demonstrates in the first of his ‘signs’, the first of his miracles. He doesn’t allow the wedding party at Cana to be a flop; the guests to go home telling their hosts how marvellous it was and then getting outside and slagging them off for their poor arrangements and most of all for the lack of booze! There was no danger of that at Cana - his abundant generosity meant there was more than enough for all - and as it was the best wine there, hopefully, weren’t too many headaches the next day.

The context of the wedding was a significant one. There are so many hopes at the beginning of a marriage that it will be a great success. We are no different today. The current arrangements for marriage and the break up of marriage are very different today than at most times in the past, but the underlying needs for companionship, for family life, for love is just them same. Jesus brought an extra dimension of blessing to that wedding at Cana. We can pray for his blessing on all marriages; and for his kindness to all who seek the fulfilment of good relationships.

It is worth remembering here St Augustine’s observation ‘our hearts shall find no rest until they find their resting place in thee, O Lord’. We all have a longing for completeness, filling that empty space deep inside. A good marriage and a good family life can go a long way to bringing that completeness. But the yearning for more is still there - and will not be properly satisfied until we experience the unbounded abundance of God’s love in the joy of our heavenly homeland. Where only the finest wine is served!