

The Drinks are on Jesus!

Isaiah 62¹⁻⁵; Psalm 36⁵⁻¹⁰; 1 Corinthians 12¹⁻¹¹; John 2¹⁻¹¹

*So shall your God rejoice over you!
[Isaiah 62⁵]*

Did you get the link between the reading from Isaiah and the Gospel?

Two weddings - both are at risk!

- ✦ Isaiah uses the example of a marriage that is in difficulties - a husband and wife have separated and there is a desire for reconciliation. Outside of the relationship the wife is **forsaken** and **desolate**; in the relationship there is delight. That was Isaiah's way of talking about God and the nation of Israel.
- ✦ John tells the story of the first miracle - of turning water into wine - at the wedding in Cana in Galilee. The custom at the time was that anyone in the community was invited to the party and it would have been a disgrace in a small community not to have provided enough. Can you imagine that for years to come the young couple wouldn't be mentioned without adding, *do you remember their wedding? What a shame. They ran out of wine!*

The good news is that the drinks are on Jesus!

The wedding would have been remembered - despite the exchange between Jesus and his mother (**what concern is**[the wine giving out] **to you and me?**) Jesus made the wedding memorable by turning water into wine - somewhere in the region of 3,500 glasses, which was acknowledged by the MC as **good wine!** (This was obviously before the government advice on restricting our intake to 3 units a day!)

Why? Why water into wine as a first miracle?

Because from the begin it is clear that Jesus came to convert - water into wine is easy, but it talks about the conversion of sinners into saints, which is what he does with you and me! It is also the case that wine is always a symbol of joy in the Old Testament!

The joy and the superlatives are clear in the text!

- ✦ Isaiah uses the idea of a crown (the walls of Jerusalem would probably have looked like one) **You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.** No ordinary jewels, but royal ones!
- ✦ Isaiah goes on to use the image from the honeymoon - beginning again **as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.**
- ✦ The Psalmist is effulgent. Out of the 'Covenant Love' (hesed) is **refuge**; and plenty - **they shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house, they shall drink from the river of your delights.**
- ✦ Paul rejoices that the community in God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit - equally God) empowers the Christian community with gifts of grace. It doesn't matter much which gift you have - but we each have one - because we all need each other. Note - there isn't a gift of misery: all gifts are for the **common good.**
- ✦ John points out that this first miracle **revealed Christ's glory** and as a result of that **his disciples believed in him.**

Reconciliation and joy - that's what happens when we accept that the drinks are on Jesus!