

Lectionary readings: Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 36: 5-10; 1

Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11

For reflection and prayer

- **Isaiah 62:** God speaks of His people in terms of His bride, the ones in whom He delights. As God describes His people, Israel, so He describes us as His bride today. This is the kind of close, intimate relationship He wants to have with us. And He wants us to celebrate the fact that we are loved and chosen by Him, each one of us special to Him. Is that how you see yourself - as God's beloved one? That's how He sees each one of us. And God calls us to a changed life, a new way of being, trusting in His unconditional love and utter faithfulness.
- **Psalm 36:** This passage speaks of the depth of God's love for us and His faithfulness to us. He wants us to nestle close to Him for refuge, to feast on Him as at a banquet and to drink the living water of His presence. But if we are to experience these delights, we need to choose to draw close and let Him love us. He wants us to let His love permeate our whole being so that He can form in us His nature and character.
- **1 Corinthians 12:** Paul says that it is by the Spirit of God that we can say, 'Jesus is Lord.' But it is not enough to say these words; our whole life needs to proclaim that Jesus is at the centre of our life. It is God's Spirit who bestows on us our gifts. All of us have the Spirit of God within us and that means we have the fullness of God in us. So we all have something to offer to the church by way of gifts. And we need to rejoice in the gifts we have and in the gifts others have. We are not competing with one another, but rather working to

build the Kingdom of God and help it to grow. Love is the supreme gift that God gives us, and so our church should be a community flowing with love, forgiveness and acceptance, recognising each person as of value. Let's give thanks for the richness and diversity of our fellowship and let's pray that we will allow God's love to flow in and through us more and more.

- **John 2:** This is a story about transformation. Jesus totally transformed the situation at the wedding at Cana. It would have been a social disaster to run out of wine. But Jesus is doing far more than averting a social disaster. Jesus takes something insipid and colourless, like water, and transforms it into something rich and attractive. This is what Jesus wants to do with our lives. Perhaps we see our life as ordinary and humdrum; perhaps we feel ourselves to be in a rut. Jesus who exists in us through his Spirit can, in His own unique and unexpected way, turn our life around and make the ordinary extraordinary, the humdrum beautiful. All we need to do is what Mary did. She didn't tell Jesus what to do; she simply opened up the situation to Him and left Him to work in whatever way He knew to be right. If we open ourselves to God and share with Him whatever needs to be changed, we will receive unexpected blessings through God opening our eyes to gifts and insights that come in very different ways from what we expect. He will also enable us to see God in our situation and that awareness of God's presence will give us new vision. Why not try this each day this week and let God 'colour your life beautiful'? The steward said, '*You have saved the best till now.*' That's how God works even now. This moment is such an opportunity. Let's be alert to it.