

Second Reading (John 4:7-12)

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Saint John

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

As long as we love one another

God will live in us, and his love will be complete in us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Fr Michael: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit.

Fr Michael: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (2:1-11)

All: Glory to you, O Lord

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said 'Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.' This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

Fr Michael: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Celebration of Matrimony

Fr Michael: Dearly beloved, you have come together here before a minister of the Church and in the presence of the community so that your intention to enter into Marriage may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal, and your love be enriched with his blessing, so that you may have strength to be faithful to each other forever and to assume all the responsibilities of married life.

And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

The Questions before the Consent

Fr Michael: Shaun and Lucy, have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

Shaun: I have

Lucy: I have

Fr Michael: Shaun, are you resolved to take Lucy to be your wife: to love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and forsaking all others, to be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Shaun: I am

Fr Michael: Lucy, are you resolved to take Shaun to be your husband: to love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and forsaking all others, to be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Lucy: I am

Fr Michael: Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

Shaun: I am

Lucy: I am

The Civil Declaration of Freedom

Shaun: I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, Shaun David Smith, may not be joined in matrimony to Lucy Elizabeth Freeman.

Lucy: I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, Lucy Elizabeth Freeman, may not be joined in matrimony to Shaun David Smith.

The Consent

Fr Michael: Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony, join your right hands and declare your consent before God and his Church.

Shaun: I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, Shaun David Smith, do take thee, Lucy Elizabeth Freeman, to be my lawful wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death do us part.

Lucy: I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, Lucy Elizabeth Freeman, do take thee, Shaun David Smith, to be my lawful wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death do us part.

The Reception of the Consent

Fr Michael: May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church, and graciously bring to fulfilment his blessing within you. What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

Fr Michael: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Blessing and Giving of Rings

Fr Michael: May the Lord bless these rings, which you will give to each other as a sign of love and fidelity.

All: Amen.

Shaun: Lucy, I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage, with my body I honour you, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you.

Lucy: Shaun, I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage, with my body I honour you, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you.

All: Amen

Hymn (Amazing Grace)

The Universal Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Fr Michael: Now let us humbly invoke God's blessing upon this bride and groom, that in his kindness he may favour with his help those on whom he has bestowed the Bond of Marriage.

Fr Michael: Holy Father, maker of the whole world, who created man and woman in your own image and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing, we humbly beseech you for these your servants, who are joined today in the Marriage covenant.

May your abundant blessing, Lord, come down upon this bride, Lucy, and upon Shaun, her companion for life, and may the power of your Holy Spirit set their hearts aflame from on high, so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony, they may be known for the integrity of their conduct.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord, in sorrow may they seek you out; may they have the joy of your presence to assist them in their toil, and know that you are near to comfort them in their need; and after a happy old age, together with the circle of friends that surrounds them, may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.