

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer

The Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
and to praise, bless, and glorify your name
in veneration of the Blessed ever-Virgin Mary.

For by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit
she conceived your Only Begotten Son,
and without losing the glory of virginity,
brought forth into the world the eternal Light,
Jesus Christ our Lord...

Communion Antiphon

(to be recited privately)

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary,
which bore the Son of the eternal Father.

“And having your might unassailable,
deliver me from all danger
so that I may cry unto Thee:
Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.”

(from the "Akathistos" of the Eastern Liturgy)

SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA, LARGS

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT MARY, STAR OF THE SEA

26-27 SEPTEMBER 2020

Readings



“His Mother said to the servants,
‘Do whatever he tells you.’”

(John 2: 5)

FULLNESS

Have you ever quoted an angel? Think carefully before you reply! The answer is a definite yes: “Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you.” So, you see, you are quoting the Archangel Gabriel every day, often many times a day! It might interest you to note, though, that Gabriel did not actually say, “Hail, Mary, full of grace” but “Rejoice, you who have been filled with grace!” That’s what St. Luke says in his Gospel (Luke 1:28). What we say in the Hail Mary is the result of a pious rendering of the words of Gabriel and St. Elizabeth, to make it easy to pray.

Luke’s exact words are very interesting, because they show us that God’s proper name for Mary was, not Mary, but “you who have been filled with grace.” God sees into the heart and soul and pronounces her name as He sees it. He had given her the fullness of grace in her Immaculate Conception. That fullness of grace, though, came to her from the (future) saving death and resurrection of her Son. For her, God “anticipated” the outcome of Jesus’ mission, which was to make the fullness of grace available for every human being. Such is the tremendous and beautiful privilege of the Mother of God.

That fullness, though, is not just a personal privilege that Our Lady keeps jealously to herself. With Mary, fullness is her lifestyle, fullness is her style, fullness is her “M.O.,” her “modus operandi,” her way of working. Think of her response to Gabriel: “let your word happen to me” – that’s fullness of obedience, of docility. Think how she lived out that fullness so fully by walking the Way of the Cross. Think how her fullness of commitment led to the fullness of her salvation, body and soul, in heaven.

With regard to her children, she is no less fulsome in her “M.O.” We see it in today’s Gospel reading. She perceives the need of the young couple at the wedding feast. She always perceives all our needs. With the fullness of her maternal attentiveness she intuitively understands the fullness of our situation. Then, echoing her own plenitude of obedience, she commends the same to the servants, “do whatever He tells you.” They do, and what is the result? Six very large vessels brimming over with the best wine! Mary received the fullness of grace from her Son and obtains the fullness of his gifts for her children – if we “do whatever He tells us.”

On this Feast Day of Our Lady, Patroness of our Parish, be in no doubt that she perceives all the needs, spiritual and temporal, of every one of us. Turn to her and give her the joy of obtaining for you, through your obedience to Christ, the fullness of grace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-6

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Responsorial Psalm: Judith 13:18a-19

You are the highest honour of our race!

Gospel

John 2:1-11

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.’