

Reflection: January 24th 2021

The gospel for today tells of Jesus and his mother who are at Cana where the first of his miraculous signs occurs --- plain water for washing, changed into a huge quantity of wine. It is a work of transformation.

And there's a message here about OUR call to be part of God's transforming work. Cosmo Lang wrote that, "the main business of the Christian life is to go through the world turning its water into wine" . What a thought! So, what might that look like? Certainly, being attentive to and valuing people on equal terms can be part of it and can be transforming the sense they have of themselves, especially if they have suffered a wound of rejection, for whatever reason.

I read a story recently about a young man who had escaped from a village in Syria and found asylum in North London. Before arriving, he had spent time in France, in the notorious Calais jungle. There, he had looked after someone who was ill and had discovered a talent for cooking and for feeding people, even in the most limiting of conditions. Now he has a pop-up café in London and is doing well. Having received a welcome, he is involved in building community and welcoming others. He gets to share with people from all places and backgrounds the cooking of his homeland and the stories of the country he loves. The top item on his menu is "Jungle Eggs". It redeems the memory and experience of a dark place and time. It transforms the ordinary into something very wonderful. People gift such a transformation for us more often than perhaps we might realise. We too can go and do likewise.

Amen

Collect for Epiphany 3

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God , now and for ever. Amen.