

## Prayer

O God, who were pleased to give us  
the shining example of the Holy Family,  
graciously grant that we may imitate them  
in practicing the virtues of family life  
and in the bonds of charity,  
and so, in the joy of your house,  
delight one day in eternal rewards.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



**Our Catholic faith and the teaching of the Church enable us to affirm the truth about marriage and family:**

We believe that marriage and family are for the mutual good of husband and wife and the procreation and education of any children God may send them.

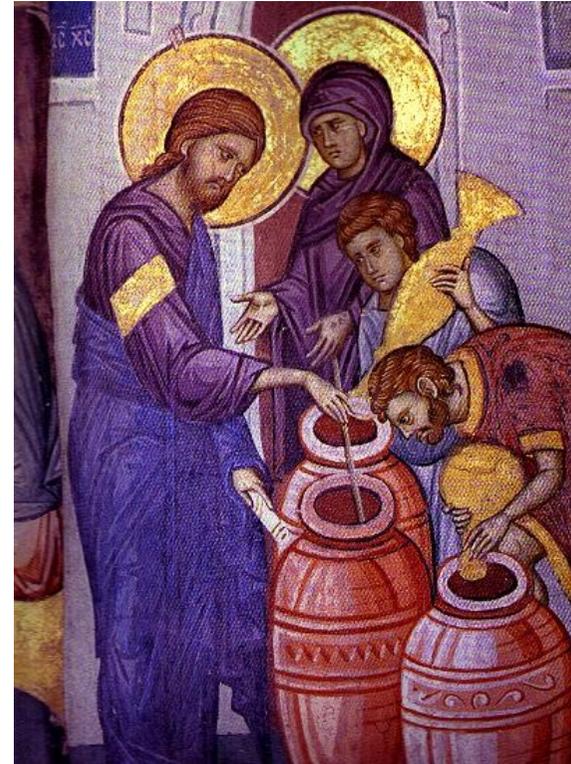
We believe that families are schools of deepest humanity, where virtue is learned and parents are the first teachers in the ways of faith.



## THE CALL, THE JOURNEY AND THE MISSION

An Invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales to  
Reflect on the Gift of Marriage and Family Life

# The wedding feast of Cana



## **Scripture: John 2:1-12**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there for a few days.

## **Questions to ponder**

- What is it like to have a wedding in the family?  
What are the considerations and hopes?
- How does the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana touch our own experience of engagement, weddings, and post-wedding life? What is Mary’s role? And Jesus’? What is the water that Jesus turns into wine for us?
- How do we prepare for marriage?  
How can the Church support us in this?
- How do we continue to journey in marriage? What helps? What hinders? How can our families help us? How might the Church support us?

## **Bishops’ Question**

**How does your family life  
enrich those around you?**

***Record your responses***