

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP  
Registered Charity Number: 1133977  
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk  
**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### TODAY

9:00 am Family Eucharist  
Hymns: 690; 242; 97; 499  
10:30 am Said Parish Eucharist  
Hymns: 99; 102; 103; 812

### THIS WEEK

#### MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer  
10:00 am Church open

#### TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer  
10:00 am Church open

#### WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer  
9:30 am Said Eucharist  
10:00 am Church open

#### THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer



9.30am-11.30am - ST. NICK'S NIPPERS  
Worship & Coffee & Friendship for young  
children and those who have care of them.

#### FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open

#### SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open  
10:30 am Ark – Craft Group

### NEXT SUNDAY – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

9:00 am Said Eucharist  
10:30 am Parish Eucharist  
Noon Holy Baptism – Mia Ariel Parker

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY</u>	<u>WEDS 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</u>
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalms 19:1-6	Psalms 67
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Acts 9:1-22
Luke 4:14-21	Matthew 19:27-end

### FROM THE ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Dear Friends,

In Sunday's gospel – in either the Prayer Book or Common Worship lectionaries – we hear the third of the 'epiphanies' or manifestations of our Lord: the first of the 'signs' in John in which Jesus "**revealed his glory**": the changing of water into wine at the wedding of Cana.

It is an intriguing story, in which it is the mother of Jesus who notices that the catering arrangements have gone embarrassingly wrong. When she reports this to Jesus, clearly expecting him to do something

about it, he responds by saying that his "**hour**," which in John means his passion, has "**not yet come**." In the gospel, and in our relationship with him, Jesus does not always conform to our timetables! His mother, apparently undeterred, tells the servants to "**Do whatever he tells you**." An instruction which even Christians with no tradition of Marian devotion should be able to take seriously.

The result is the transformation of vast quantities of water into wine, so the party can go on. Nor is this fresh supply £5 supermarket plonk. The worldly-wise and surprised steward says to the bridegroom:

**"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."** This sign points us to the extraordinary generosity of God.

The choice of a passage from Isaiah (62.1-5) reminds us of the use of marital imagery in the scriptures to represent the joy God has prepared for his people.

The language of the wedding feast – the marriage supper of the Lamb – also speaks of its anticipation in our celebration of the Eucharist. Jesus will later produce an overabundant provision of bread to remedy another lack.

Wine has a double significance:

of the joy of union and communion

of the blood of sacrifice, Christ's offering of himself:

**"This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins"**; and our sharing in that self-giving love. The two are intimately connected; one grows from the other. If this becomes the pattern of our lives, then, looking back, we find that the best wine has been kept until now. This is not a counsel to seek out suffering or put up with it for its own sake, but a recognition of the cost of caring.

On Sunday, too, we begin a series of readings from the later chapters of 1 Corinthians. When the Church is beset by problems and the wine of joy seems to have run out, it is helpful to remind ourselves that life in the earliest Christian communities was not one of unalloyed joy. Nor did their problems all stem from external hostility. Some were generated internally. This was certainly the case in Corinth. In Sunday's passage Paul sets out to discuss "**spiritual gifts**" or "spiritual matters" or "persons;" of which the Corinthians do not seem to have been short, but which were the source of division not unity.

But before he does that he speaks of how the Spirit gives believers a voice to confess that "Jesus is Lord." The first action of the Spirit is not to produce gifts of preaching or teaching or speaking in tongues, but to evoke the basic commitment to Jesus' lordship which undergirds the Christian life.

Paul then makes clear that the diversity of gifts in the Church come from the same source. This diversity is rooted in the character of God. Diversity is not an unfortunate accident or a cultural phenomenon that needs to be eliminated by an imposed uniformity.

But, this variety of gifts is **“for the common good.”** The Greek term suggests usefulness or profitability for others. The gifts given to individual believers are not for their private benefit, or even for a circle of those like them. Paul's strictures on the factions in Corinth warn against a diversity within the Church in which various groups keep to themselves and nurture their own growth apart from the gifts others might bring and the contributions they might offer to others. He envisages a single community in which the gifts of God are used for the service of all.

I have spent two and a half days of this week with the Time To Change Together Implementation Group, for which I act as spiritual adviser. Our time together included a visit from the Archbishop of Canterbury by Zoom to commission Bishop Stephen as our acting Diocesan Bishop.

Part of the TTCT process asks parishes to consider, not just what they need from the wider church, but what gifts they can offer to others. We are being asked not only to give to others but to receive from them. The latter is sometimes harder than the former. It involves admitting our dependence on others. These are questions not just for parishes but for us all as disciples.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Alan

### **PARISH INFORMATION**

#### Parish Office

☎ 01522 540614; [stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com)

Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

#### Online & Social Media

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

[www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk](http://www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk)

### **NOTICES**

#### **THANK YOU**

We are overwhelmed with the generosity shown in the gifts we received last weekend to mark the end of Hugh's time as Vicar of St Nicholas. Thank you all so much. We have had a happy and blessed time over the last eight years and while we will miss you, we are not far away and are looking forward to the evolution of our relationship with this wonderful Christian family. Thank you again, and God bless you all. *Hugh & Jackie*

### **COVID RESTRICTIONS**

Following recent government announcements, it is now compulsory to wear face masks when attending acts of public worship, unless you are specifically

exempt. For the safety of all those who worship with us, please respect this requirement.

### **GIN TASTING**

Enjoy an evening of gin tasting - here in our Blenkin Room - on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January**, at 7 pm. Tickets cost £20, and are available from the parish office.

### **OLD GREETINGS CARDS**

If you are happy to part with some of your recently received Christmas cards, please pop them in a bag and leave them in a box marked **DM** in church.

*Many thanks, David Mowbray.*

### **FAIR TRADE GOODS**

I am still able to obtain fair trade goods, the sale of which benefits the church and the producers. However, I shall not be able to operate a monthly stall with goods on display. I have the Autumn/Winter catalogue for people to browse, and from which goods may be ordered. If interested, please speak to me at church or by telephone on 526783. *John Simmons*

### **FUNDRAISING FOR ST NICK'S**

If you use Amazon for on-line shopping, you might like to think about using Amazon Smile. Through Amazon Smile, you will have access to exactly the same range of goods as on Amazon, at the same prices, but for each purchase you make, Amazon Smile will make a donation to St Nicks. How does it work? Instead of logging in to your normal Amazon account, just log in to Amazon Smile instead. You will be asked which charity/good cause you would like to support. Search for and select "The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St. Nicholas With St. John Baptist, Lincoln". You can then make your purchases in the normal way and St Nick's will benefit to a small degree from each purchase. If you are happy with on-line shopping and all that entails then why not give it a go. *Sue Humphrey*

### **REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST**

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January there will be a Holocaust Memorial Service at St Hugh's, Lincoln, from 3-4 pm. This ecumenical service is being held to commemorate the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. It is an open invitation to all across Lincolnshire.

### **ARTHRITIS ACTION**

In light of the latest national guidance on COVID-19, Arthritis Action will not be holding any face-to-face events or Group meetings until further notice. They are however pleased to be running Online Groups. If you would like to find out more, please go to: <http://www.arthritisaction.org.uk/media-centre/events/>.

## READINGS

*Sunday 16th January*

### **COLLECT**

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **FIRST READING**

ISAIAH 62:1-5

The Lord says this:

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty  
in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;  
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,  
and your land Married;  
for the Lord delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.  
For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your builder marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.

### **PSALM**

PSALM 36:5-10

*Refrain: With you is the well of life.*

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.  
Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains,  
your justice like the great deep;  
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast. **R**  
How precious is your loving mercy, O God!  
All mortal flesh shall take refuge  
under the shadow of your wings.  
They shall be satisfied with the abundance  
of your house;  
they shall drink from the river of your delights. **R**  
For with you is the well of life  
and in your light shall we see light.  
O continue your loving-kindness  
to those who know you  
and your righteousness  
to those who are true of heart. **R**

### **SECOND READING**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want

you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

### **GOSPEL READING**

JOHN 2:1-11

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.

### **POST COMMUNION**

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

**COLLECT**

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

1 SAMUEL 17:32-33, 37, 40-51

David said to Saul, 'Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.' Saul said to David, 'You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.' David said, 'The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.' So Saul said to David, 'Go, and may the Lord be with you!' Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, 'Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?' And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, 'Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.' But David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand.'

When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine; he grasped his sword, drew it out of its sheath, and killed him; then he cut off his head with it.

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

**PSALM**

PSALM 144:1-2, 9-10

*Refrain: Happy are the people who have the Lord for their God.*

Blessed be the Lord my rock,  
who teaches my hands for war and my fingers  
for battle;  
My steadfast help and my fortress,  
my stronghold and my deliverer,  
my shield in whom I trust,  
who subdues the peoples under me. **R**  
O God, I will sing to you a new song;  
I will play to you on a ten-stringed harp,  
You that give salvation to kings  
and have delivered David your servant. **R**

**GOSPEL READING**

MARK 3:1-6

Jesus entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward.' Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

**POST COMMUNION**

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**