Sermon:

I have always been teetotal. My sister refused alcoholic communion wine at the college where she trained to be a minister. But Jesus drank wine at the Last Supper and Paul urged Timothy to do so (1 Tim 5.23).

However to urge moderate drinking through John 2.1-11 is to misunderstand and misuse it.

On the surface it is a simple miracle story. Wedding, wine runs out, Jesus turns water into wine, all OK.

John says it took place four days after Jesus’ baptism, and that Jesus’ disciples (by then, Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathanael & one other) were invited – odd, as most were from Lake Galilee 20k from Cana.

Jesus refuses to help after his mother asks him to, but even so does actually help.

But John is deeper than this, with subtexts. Wine, Communion, life in abundance, are strong themes.

In this story and the one about feeding the 5000 physical needs are satisfied. Does this not say that this world is important too? Jesus paid the Temple tax through a coin found in a fish (Matthew 17.27), and the many healings all say the same message. Even the idea of Creation (Gen 1-2, John 1) says this.

John, as Jesus, often took the mundane, finding God in it: water at the well, bread of life, light, shepherds. Too easily we look for God only in spiritual stuff (where he is), and miss God in the mundane.

Do we have opening devotions for our business meetings, then close God off when we talk of money?

Do we find God in our hymns and Bible readings, then ignore God on the journey to and from Church?

Do we remember for others in our prayers, then forget to see God in their needs?

“So heavenly minded, that he is of no earthly use”. Can this criticism be levelled at us? At this church?

It is not enough to point to what our parish does: Brown Bags, Friday Club, Story Room, Craft Circle, Meals on Wheels, knitting Bootees & Scarves, even Pastoral Visiting. We are called to be awake to God, found not just in church, worship and prayer, but in neighbours, the news, in *every* encounter, *every* moment.

This is God’s world! He is always here!