

Dear friends,

I have recorded a reflection on one of the most beautiful and profound stories found in the New Testament – the wedding feast at Cana, the first and key-note sign of John's gospel placed immediately after his famous first chapter read traditionally at Midnight Mass. To read it just click on this link. <https://youtu.be/I1LBcVFX5wA>

Alternatively, If you'd prefer to read it you can do so on my Blog by clicking here on this link; <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2021/01/water-turned-into-wine-description-of.html>

**In an** initiative announced by Bishop Robert today the 2<sup>nd</sup> February (Candlemas) is being designated a day of prayer for schools – all schools not just church schools – and that I will contact the three church schools in our area plus the Millwater school at Bicton to find out what their specific needs are so our prayers can be focussed on what is truly desired.

**In that same ballpark** I received a lovely email from the Children's society on Thursday thanking us for raising £785.25 from our Christingle donations over the Christmas period – thank you everyone!

## **Live Streaming from All Saints East Budleigh this Sunday**

Here is the link for the All Saints Sunday Service [at 09.30 on 24 January](https://app.faith.online/p/events/k61Cliaz1): <https://app.faith.online/p/events/k61Cliaz1>.

The telephone number to listen to the service is [01395 891035](tel:01395891035).

**This poem** was sent to me by Margaret in East Budleigh and is lovely in itself but also prompts the questions How do I speak to God and how does God speak to me.

**How I talk to God**  
*Kelly Belmonte*

Coffee in one hand  
leaning in to share, listen:  
How I talk to God.

“Momma, you’re special.”  
Three-year-old touches my cheek.  
How God talks to me.

While driving I make  
lists: done, do, hope, love, hate, try.  
How I talk to God.

Above the highway  
hawk: high, alone, free, focused.  
How God talks to me.

Rash, impetuous  
chatter followed by silence;  
How I talk to God.

First, second, third, fourth  
chance to hear, then another:  
How God talks to me.

Foetal position  
under flannel sheets, weeping.  
How I talk to God.

Moonlight on pillow  
Tending to my open wounds.  
How God talks to me.

Pulling from my heap  
Of words, the ones that mean yes:  
How I talk to God.

Infinite connects  
With finite, without words:  
How God talks to me.

**I introduced** you to Bishop Robert Barron some time ago. Bishop Robert is an American Catholic Bishop whose short videos on various Christian matters are learned, user friendly and always interesting. I include this one on “having a personal relationship with Jesus” because I found it

spiritually informative and I learned something new about the English language that wasn't obvious to me - that the word "thy" as in "Hallowed be thy name" is the *familiar* form of You in English – not an archaic formal form of You I had formally imagined. Having that little thing clarified for me revealed an intimacy inherent in the Lord's prayer that I had missed before. One I admit I should have known because the prayer is addressed to *our Father*. Anyway, here is the link to the Bishop's address should you want to listen to more insights. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2KZDQSxwF4>

**The prayer for Today** is the Lord's prayer in the traditional version.

**Our Father,  
which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Love and peace,  
Martin

Please note my new email address is [vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk)