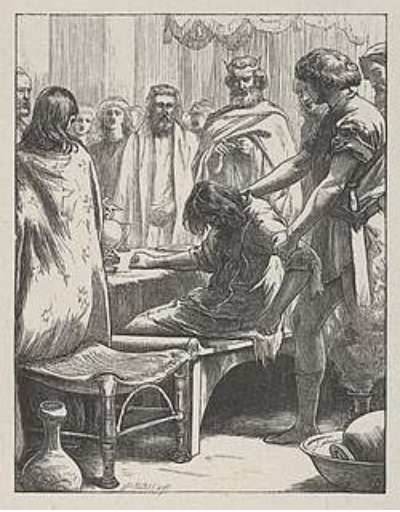
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THE HOLY NAME of Jesus CHINESE CATHOLIC MISSION
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每周公告 Weekly Bulletin
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The Wedding Garment



The Parable of the Wedding Feast (Mt 22:1-14) was the third parable in the trilogy of parables that Jesus told the chief priests and elders after He and His disciples entered Jerusalem, where He was to suffer and die for our sins. The first was the Parable of the Two Sons (Mt 21:28-32), the second was the Parable of the Wicked Tenants (Mt 21:33-46). In the third parable, a king gave a wedding feast for his son. He sent his servants to call the invited guests but they refused to come. Some ignored the invitation, some laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The enraged king sent his troops to destroy the murderers and burned their city. Then the king sent his servants to the main roads to invite whomever they could find. The servants gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came to meet the guests, he saw a man not dressed in a wedding garment. The king asked the man how he got in without a wedding garment, but the man didn't have an answer. So, the king ordered his attendants to bind the man's hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.

This parable has puzzled many who asked why the king would do something so drastic to a man for not wearing a wedding garment? As a result, many commentators have attempted to speculate on what the wedding garment represents and why it was so important. You have probably heard some of these before: St. Augustine said that the wedding garment is charity – a love that springs from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith. He noted that while many people have faith, only those clothed in genuine love for God and others possess the proper attire for the wedding feast. Like St. Augustine, St. Gregory the Great also said that the wedding garment is love. He warned that entering the Church is not enough if a person's heart lacks charity. St. Hilary of Poitiers said that the wedding garment is the grace of the Holy Spirit and the purity of the celestial habit received at baptism, which must be kept clean and intact through life.

Actually, understanding a little cultural context of the Near East regarding royal banquets and wedding garments can clear up a lot of the mystery. At the time of Jesus, royal or wealthy hosts of grand banquets often provided special outer garments or robes at the door for their guests to wear. This was done to ensure that all guests, including poor and last-minute guests looked respectable to honor the occasion. Therefore, a guest who does not wear a wedding garment to a royal banquet did not lack access to one; rather, it was a clear sign that the guest rejected the king's hospitality, showed disrespect, disloyalty and even treason. The parable does not tell us why the man didn't wear the wedding garment that was offered to him. All the parable tells us is that the man was at a loss for words when the king asked why.

How shall we apply the lesson of this parable to our lives today? When we began, we asked what the wedding garment represents. Now, we ask a more important question: "What did the clothes the man was already wearing represent?" Was the man simply too indifferent to the wedding garment offered to him, or did he feel that he didn't need to cover his clothes with the wedding garment? If we are to consider that the wedding garment is the one thing that would prevent us from being thrown of the wedding feast, then what level of importance should put on that wedding garment? Perhaps we should consider three things: (1) Should we carry on with the priorities which we have already set in our lives, or should we seriously examine

it and reorder our priorities? (2) Should we remain indifferent to the lessons of the trilogy of parables that Jesus told the chief priests and elders, and continue on with our old habits, lifestyles, or addictions? (3) What are the attachments to things or persons other than God that we have right now that we clearly need to detach away from? The invitation has been sent out, the wedding feast awaits, but it will not wait for us forever.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCIA has begun: If you know anyone who has an interest in becoming Catholic, please contact Fr. Bill.

Chinese language classes for the Spring Semester begin on January 9 and 10, 2027. We are offering classes for both children and adults. Schedule and registration can be downloaded from our church website.

If you would like to practice conversing in the English language, come and join us at our new English classes after the 10:30am Mass! Today, class will be held in the Conference Room.

Attention Sunday School students and parents! Classes will be held as usual today (October 11), but there will be no class next Sunday (October 18) due to Fall Break. Please make arrangements in advance. Thank you!

October 18 is potluck Sunday! This is a great activity for everyone to foster fellowship in our church community. Lunch begins after the 10:30am Mass. Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you are celebrating your birthday in the month of October, we have ordered a birthday cake for you.

We have a volunteer opportunity at the Atlanta Food Bank on December 5, 2026. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up with Angela Ooi and Daisy Tsui.

Prayer List: Bian Cheng Zhang, Susan Lee, Michael Tan, Bian Meiyi, Chen Shupeng, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	**Confessions**	**Bible Study**
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	By Appointment	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)		
	Anointing of the Sick	**Eucharistic Adoration**
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Sundays 9:00 to 10:00 AM
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	First Fridays after 6:30 PM Mass	
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)		
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 6:30 PM (English)		