Sunday Homily
SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

> "His mother said to the servants,
> 'Do whatever he tells you.'"
>
> John 2:5

Illustration

Tom was sixty-nine years old and had one ambition left in life. He wanted to have a go at abseiling. He had heard his grandchildren talking about it excitedly and longed to experience the thrill of climbing down a cliff face. A day's abseiling was arranged for Tom's seventieth birthday present.

When he eventually reached the top of the cliff, Tom was overcome with nervousness and feared that he might not be able to fulfil his ambition. The abseiling instructors sensitively appreciated Tom's anxiety. "You must trust in us completely," they advised. "Just do as we tell you and you'll be quite safe." Tom put on the safety harness and awaited his final instruction. Trusting the instructors completely and following their advice, he descended the steep cliff face slowly, cautiously and successfully.

Without total trust, Tom's ambition could not have been fulfilled. And it is that total trust in God that can help us to fulfil our life's purpose.

Gospel Teaching

We may often hear the expression, "Trust in God." It is easy to say but very challenging to do. Today's Gospel shows us that when we trust in God and do the Lord's will, his glory is revealed. Mary's trust and confidence in her son is shown when she advises the servants at the wedding in Cana to "Do whatever he tells you." Jesus had seemed reluctant to solve the wine shortage. "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." Mary's trust in the Lord was complete. She believed that something would be done. And the key to her confidence was that she knew him well. She could trust in Jesus because she knew him intimately, as a mother knows a son, she had shared with him, was comfortable with him, was close to him.

Throughout his ministry Jesus encouraged people to trust in God. His disciples grew close to him, they watched as he cured the sick, forgave the sinner and welcomed the outcast. Each encounter and experience deepened their faith. "He let his glory be seen and his disciples believed in him." They grew close to him.

If we wish to do the Lord's will we must first trust in him. To trust anyone it is important to know them well – no one trusts a complete stranger. The disciples'

trust in the Lord grew as their friendship with Jesus deepened. Trusting in him, we are called to act on what we believe – to discern what is the Lord's will. When we follow the Lord's will we are taking great steps into the unknown. It isn't always the path the world wants us to follow. And as we go, it is important to remember that we may make mistakes. We can always start again.

Through doing God's will we reveal his glory and our lives will be a living proclamation of the Gospel.

Application

To trust in the Lord completely we need to know him well. Reading the scriptures on a regular basis, spending quiet moments listening to the voice of God as he speaks to us in the world around us, alert to what he is saying in the varied moments of our day, sharing in the lives of our fellow Christians: all these things help us to deepen our relationship with God. It is good to seek out a quiet moment when we can be alone with God, listening to what he asks of us. And as our knowledge of and closeness to God deepen, so will our trust in the Lord grow. We will have a better sense of discernment, helping us to work out what he wants us to do in the world.

We each fulfil God's will in a different way, as St Paul tells us: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord." We each have a particular gift which we are to use in fulfilling God's will in the world. No one else has our gifts, so it is up to us to use them – to act on what we believe. As we grow to appreciate the uniqueness of our own calling, we begin to appreciate more the unique gifts of each other person. We grow in love of one another as we grow in our love for God. In this way we are letting God's glory be seen and living the Good News.