

A Coffee with Alessio



"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad."

The title of this week's column comes from the Gospel verse for each day of the Easter octave this past week. If there is one thing we Catholics are good at, it is celebrating and having a party. Easter is a fifty day party which will end on Pentecost Sunday. Indeed we have so much to rejoice and be glad about, for Jesus has risen from the dead and given us the promise of New Life. This is why the colour of the Easter Season is white or gold. We have moved from the penitential colour of violet or purple during the Season of Lent to these colours of joy. (Hence the gold border).

During these weeks of Easter, all the scripture readings are taken from the New Testament. So we will hear the readings from the Acts of the Apostles, which will tell us about their trials and tribulations, their joys and sorrows as they went about their important task of proclaiming the Good News of the Risen Christ to believers and non-believers alike.

The Gospel stories during the first couple of Sunday's of Easter tell us of Jesus' appearances to his disciples after his resurrection. Last Sunday we heard about how the disciples locked themselves up in a room, because they were scared of the Jews. A couple of weeks ago, I heard in a homily that Jesus didn't choose his apostles based on intelligence, looks or possessing an elite status. Rather he chose his apostles based on their heart. Well, he didn't choose them on the basis of not being

scardy cats either, because that's exactly what they were! Only one apostle stood by his cross, John. The rest of them denied knowing Jesus, ran away, hid or just went into a complete shut down mode. It was like they were doing an evacuation drill. Not only were they a bunch of scardy cats, but sometimes they acted like a bunch of big babies. When the going got tough, the tough didn't get going. They were inactive. Sometimes we experience the same things as those chosen twelve did. Not only do we share the same experiences as them, but we also copy their scardy cat ways. Confrontation can be difficult, just as correcting people can be. Sometimes we like to keep secrets, but people find out what we didn't want them to know anyway. Sometimes it seems easier to run away from certain situations. Only for us to find however, the problem hasn't gone away or it has got worse.

Jesus rose to New Life to give us the opportunity to start again each day and for us to experience each day as 'new life' in him, and to let go of the things that were a disaster yesterday, but instead build on the goodness that we experienced.

In the last column, I mentioned about pancakes being a sign of joy to me, and I definitely had my delicious pancakes breakfast during the Easter week. Pancakes and Easter just seem to go hand in hand to me. Jesus is risen, and I'm going to celebrate that for the next fifty days, for he wants us to rejoice and be happy in him. Each and every Easter Day has indeed been made by the Lord, and so it is right that we rejoice and are glad! Our Easter liturgy is full of signs of joy. In addition to the gold or white vestments, the paschal candle is lit, and Alleluia has returned to our liturgy.

Make Easter a special time of rejoicing and celebration in your homes, so that you are a visible sign of the Risen Christ to any visitors who come to your home. Use a gold or white table cloth for the dinner table. Use special crockery and plates, and light a candle at your meal times that can be your 'paschal candle' for your home. Our meals at home are an extension of the sacred meal we share in the Eucharist. Don't be a scardy cat like the Apostles were. Instead wear your faith and your happiness in it on your sleeve and let everyone know about it, because Jesus has risen and he wants you and me to be happy and share in the joy of his resurrection. Let Alleluia be the song the world hears from

your lips, and let this time be a time of great feasting!

Enjoy your coffee this week as we continue to celebrate Easter!

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Music Field Officer

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