

## *A Coffee with Alessio*



### **Holy Week- "In the Church and in our lives"**

Once again, this Sunday, we begin the holiest of weeks on the liturgical calendar as we journey with the Lord on his last days on earth. We begin with the triumphant atmosphere of Palm Sunday, which quickly turns to the feeling of uncertainty for the Apostles on Holy Thursday, the sorrow of Good Friday, the anticipation of Holy Saturday, and then finally the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

In November last year, the Archdiocese of Perth was blessed to have six men ordained to the Priesthood. I have to say the Cathedral was a 'busy place' that evening. The next day, I had the privilege of playing the organ for the first Mass of one of those newly ordained men. In the homily at that Mass, a guest priest said to the newly ordained priest: "Your ordination (last night) and first Mass (today) are like your Palm Sunday. But you will also have many 'Good Fridays' in your priesthood as well." That really goes for all of us, both in our personal and professional lives. You see, normally when we start a new job, everyone is all excited, but as we get to know people, and they get to know us, sometimes we can find things out about them, that we don't particularly like. Similarly, in choirs, we must always remember to make everyone feel welcome and leave the 'politics at the door'. In choirs we have our Palm Sunday and Good Friday as well. There are those times, when everything is working out. People have rehearsed and learned their music, everyone is working well together, and we make a joyful noise for the Lord. There are also those times (and we've all had them), where things are a total

shamble. That's ok! Because God is okay with mess too. It's the mess in our lives, that are the times we grow and learn so much more about ourselves.

So, the priest who shared those wise words back in November, certainly made me think about a lot of things. I hope that you have people to celebrate your 'Palm Sundays' with, and people to support you in your 'Good Fridays'. After all, on Good Friday, most people abandoned Jesus. Mary, his Mother and John, (the disciple whom He loved), must have been wondering if they were in the right place that first Good Friday, and they were!

Next week's column will be posted on our website and our Facebook page on Monday as next Friday is a public holiday.

Wishing you a very prayerful Holy Week, and may your music help your parishioners, choir members and visitors enter more fully into each of the liturgies of this Holy Week. Make sure you find a nice café after Mass this weekend to enjoy a coffee and have some time to 'chill', before it all gets going again at the end of next week.

Mr Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

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