

A Coffee with Alessio



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time- Year B

This Sunday marks the end of the Eucharistic discourse in the Lectionary. We will hear the final part of the sixth chapter of Saint John's Gospel, and the other readings that have also focused on the Eucharist will change to a different topic next Sunday.

In the Gospel this Sunday we will hear how many of the disciples left Jesus, because his teaching was too hard for them. Jesus then asks the chosen twelve if they wish to leave also, and they chose to stay.

On Sunday 6 May this year, there was a Mass celebrated at Saint Patrick's, Church Hill to mark the bicentenary of the presence and reservation of the Blessed Sacrament in Australia. That meant for thirty years after the colonisation of this Great South Land, there was no Mass, and no reservation of the Eucharist. Catholics were given a hard time in those early days of White Settlement. So, what held those people together? Their faith in Christ as the one who gives eternal life. As Simon Peter responds to Jesus in the Gospel we will hear this Sunday. "Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe."

So, the early settlers "put flesh" on the words of the Gospel and prayed together to sustain them through difficult times. At this bicentenary Mass a plaque was laid which reads:

1818-2018
Commemorating the
second centenary
of the reservation of the
Blessed Sacrament in this site."

So, just like the twelve Apostles did, let's stick with Jesus and continue to follow him. The early settlers also stuck by Jesus, even when it would have been easier not to. Let us take heart from the example of the chosen twelve and our early settlers and make Christ present not only in our Church, but in our country and in our world.

Enjoy your coffee and cake!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer
Friday 24 August 2018