

# *A Coffee with Alessio*



## **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time- Year B**

The orations and readings this Sunday contain a few important messages, which can be challenging for us.

In the Gospel reading, the disciples are arguing about who is the greatest among them. Sometimes, in our music groups and other circles we can have rather robust discussions about who is “the greatest”. These days, leadership is a fine balance between what I see as leading (taking charge) and consulting (that is running ideas past people in what I call a kitchen cabinet).

Now there are some people who think being a leader means micromanaging everything and believe me there are plenty of those people around! Then there are those people who think asking other people’s opinions means that one cannot make one’s mind up about something, and therefore is not worthy of being a leader. I think the answer lies in the middle, and part of being a leader is knowing when to exercise “leadership” and when to exercise “consultation.” As music leaders, we need to exercise both. There are times we have to gather everyone together with the decisions we have made, and there are those times we need to ask people in our music group “What do they think about using a particular piece of music?” Following on from that, perhaps after a piece of music has been used for the first time, that would also be a good time to “consult” and ask people’s opinion about how the piece of music worked.

After the disciples argue about “who is the greatest” Jesus tells them, “If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.” That is exactly what we are doing as musicians, teachers and Heads of RE in our schools. A special “hello” to those who are Heads of RE and/or teachers who read this column. Keep up your great work of spreading the Lord’s Name and work in your communities! Our ministry as musicians, teachers or Heads of RE involves a lot of time, preparation, collaboration and leadership. All these aspects are what Jesus tried to get his twelve apostles to do to lead and work together.

Two other comments before I finish my column for this week. Today is the Feast of Saint Matthew. He was a tax collector before being called by Jesus to be one of the twelve. He is also one of the four evangelists (Gospel writers). So perhaps we can take heart from Saint Matthew’s example and see who we can search out this week to bring to know the Lord.

School also breaks up today. The end of term three. Where has the year gone? When we go back to school in a couple of weeks' time, it will be a busy term filled with all sorts of preparations for and enactments of end year activities. So, this column will be in recess and resume on Friday 12 October.

Till then, enjoy your coffee and cake. I'm going to Miss Maud's to enjoy a delicious pastry danish and flat white!

Mr Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

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