

A Coffee with Alessio



Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time- Year B

Welcome back! A lot has happened since I wrote my column at the end of Term Three. There was the AFL Grand Final, with the Eagles as premiers for 2018. The Football season has made way for cricket, amongst other sports. There has been the unfortunate Tsunami in Indonesia. In addition, in the Archdiocese of Perth, we had the visit of the relics of Saint Padre Pio. Here, at the Centre for Liturgy we have begun planning for 2019. I'll talk more about 2019 in future columns.

In the Gospel this Sunday we hear about the rich man who found it difficult to let go of his possessions in order to follow Jesus. Several ideas came to mind when I was reading this Gospel passage. During the recent school holidays, I began a huge spring clean. It's a work in progress, but I like to do things bit by bit and in order. It has been great to put away what I need and to begin to discard those things I don't. Sometimes we can have too many things to the point they can overwhelm us, or not allow us the freedom we need to do things. If we keep everything, we can't make space for new things.

So, back to the rich man in the Gospel this Sunday. It wasn't easy for him to let go of his possessions. However, the call to follow Jesus requires us to give up something. It may be time, resources or money amongst other things. All our possessions (including our gifts and talents and wealth), are a blessing from the Lord. However, he expects us to share what we have with others. Otherwise, what would the point of us having a gift and/or talent be if we couldn't share it with anyone?

There are three hymns that come to mind this weekend that fit the Gospel perfectly.

The old favourite *Be Not Afraid* (AOV1 #114, CWBII #652, GA #449), has the following line in the refrain:

"Come, follow me, and I will give you rest."

You are mine (AOV2 #2, CWBII #516) by David Haas, has a similar line in the refrain.

"Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."

Finally, *The Summons* (CWBII #645, GA #502) by John Bell from the Iona Community in Scotland. The first two lines of the hymn are:

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?”

Indeed, following the Lord should change us for the better and set us apart from the secular world’s way of doing things.

Enjoy your coffee and may the liturgy this Sunday fill your heart with joy as you give time to the Lord!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

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