

A Coffee with Alessio



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time- Year B

This week's column is coming to you from Brisbane (as you will see from the photo below with the Vicar General from Parramatta and the Archbishop of Brisbane). I was there at the end of last week with about twenty other people from liturgy offices around Australia. We did spend some time looking at what the National Liturgical Council is working on over the next year as well as its five-year plan. Strategic plans seem to be the flavour of the month at the moment. Anyhow, it was good to network with other people who face the same challenges.

There are two things I would like to comment on in light of last week. Firstly, liturgy is not static. It is always evolving. Sometimes those evolutions are major, and sometimes they are minor. In recent times, the most major change was the revised English translation of the Roman Missal. The point here is that we cannot be doing everything in the liturgy now as we were thirty or forty years ago.

Secondly, quality music and its presentation seem to be a struggle for many parishes. That is, firstly finding people who are able to lead music in the liturgy and then people who have the requisite knowledge and skills. To that end, we try to here at the Centre for Liturgy work with parishes so that our workshops are tailored to the needs of parish musicians.

I didn't miss an opportunity to try out a couple of cafes and restaurants while I was there. I had a delicious piece of apple crumble with a dollop of cream and ice-cream at Café Mondial, on Albert Street. What a wonderful way to finish a meal.

Now, back to the liturgy this coming Sunday. The response to the Responsorial Psalm says:

"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."

Indeed, the Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy because of his goodness! So many people are a blessing to us in our lives. We must be thankful for their presence and remember that the Lord does use other people to be his instrument in the world.

The various ministries we fulfil should fill us with joy and others as well. Hopefully, the music we sing in our liturgical celebrations is a source of joy for our worshipping communities.

So, this week, let us think of those people who are blessing to us and who fill us with joy. If the opportunity arises, make sure we let them know how grateful we are. At the closing of each day, let us remember those people in prayer as well, and give thanks to God for sending us those people to be his instruments of joy in the world!

If you have the chance, why not enjoy a coffee and cake with one of the people who are a blessing to you.

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

Friday 26 October 2018



Fr Peter Williams and Archbishop Coleridge