

# *A Coffee with Alessio*



## **A new liturgical year**

As I mentioned in last week's column, the liturgical year is coming to an end. I hope you had a very joyful and uplifting Mass for Christ the King last Sunday. This weekend we mark the beginning of a new liturgical year. We don't do that with fireworks from the Sydney Opera House or a 21-gun salute. Rather, we do it with purple vestments, the Advent wreath and a time of preparation for Christ's birth at Christmas. Our liturgy during Advent is slightly simplified and that allows us to have the "fireworks" at Christmas.

As I also mentioned in last week's column, you can have the blessing of the Advent wreath before the Penitential Act this Sunday.

During Advent, we prepare for Christ's coming at the end of time as well as his coming at Christmas. The readings this weekend very much focus on his coming at the end of time. I think Saint Paul (in his first letter to the Thessalonians) gives us some sound advice this weekend. The opening line we will hear this weekend in the Second Reading is:

"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love  
for one another and for all".

Yes, our liturgical ministries are a labour of love and hopefully they help us, and others abound in love for God and each other.

A very good and yet simple hymn for this Sunday (and one which you can use through Advent) is "Jesus, come to us", by David Haas (AOV1 #148). The refrain is very simple, and it won't take long for the people to catch onto the verses. The first verse says: "Fill us all with hope, and your love"- which is exactly what Saint Paul is talking about in the Second Reading.

One other comment, before I finish my column for this week. Today is the feast of Saint Andrew. He was the first of the twelve (apostles) to meet Jesus (Sourcebook 2018). Wouldn't it be wonderful if someone got to meet Jesus (for the first time) through us. It's something I'm still working on.

Well, I'm going to celebrate today's feast in style with a piece of apple pie warmed up with ice-cream on the side and a latte to wash it down.

Happy Advent everyone!

Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

Friday 30 November 2018