

A Take-away Coffee with Alessio



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

This Sunday we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter. We continue to hear in the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. In the First Reading this Sunday we will hear how the number of believers grew and as that happened so too did the need for greater organization and shared ministry. The Twelve Apostles recognized that their role was to teach and commissioned seven men to serve the physical needs of all in the community. These seven men were the first deacons in the Church and amongst other things they took care of the needs of the poor (including taking them food, something akin to a modern-day soup kitchen).

I think it's interesting that as the number of believers grew the twelve apostles recognized their own limitations and that they couldn't do all the work by themselves. I have certainly experienced something like this in recent times as I grapple with the online learning platforms in education at the moment. I haven't been able to do it all on my own and I am extremely grateful to those people who have been so willing to lend me a hand.

The increase in numbers brings to mind that tomorrow (Saturday 9 May) will mark the 119th anniversary of the sitting of the First Parliament of the newly federated nation of Australia which took place in Melbourne. What is the connection between the Australian Parliament and the number of believers growing you ask? Well, prior to Australian Federation, the six British colonies functioned like separate countries each with their own government and laws, defense force, railway system and tariffs. Each colony had its own postage stamps and collected taxes on goods that crossed the borders of the state. During the nineteenth century, people began to see that six separate systems created a lot of inefficiency and caused a number of problems.

By the time of the lead up to Federation the population of the six colonies had grown, with approximately three-quarters of the population being born here. So as the numbers grew here people recognized that there were better ways of being organized than six separate systems functioning alongside each other like ships passing in the night. I could

have a whole series of columns on Australian Federation, but I would say that it has been beneficial as we navigate our way through COVID-19 with the National Cabinet attempting to confront the daily issues that have arisen in this pandemic. Let's continue to pray for all our parliamentarians, our Queen and her representatives in this country.

In the Gospel Reading this Sunday Jesus says to his apostles and to us:
Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You have faith in God; have faith also in me."

What pertinent words for the times we are living in. We really need to sit in a quiet place and reflect on the meaning of these words and put all cares onto the Lord. He is a brilliant listener!

A very beautiful piece of music which applies to the Gospel Reading this Sunday is ***Peace I leave with you*** by Barbara Bridge. It is available for download from www.ocp.org. I encourage you to listen to this piece of music as part of your prayer this weekend.

Before I go, it's Mother's Day this Sunday - a day to give thanks to God the blessings we receive through that selfless and unconditional love mothers give to us. I am always amazed at how mothers can be past the point of exhaustion and yet still respond positively and enthusiastically to the needs of their children. They really are an example to us of Christian discipleship. So, to any mothers who are reading this column, I wish you a very happy Mother's Day and hope and pray that you get spoiled. For those of us whose mothers have gone to their eternal reward, let's remember the wonderful things they did for us while they were here on earth and give thanks to God for the wonderful example they gave to us.

As for a takeaway coffee this weekend, it has been a bit of a challenge to find a takeaway coffee. Some cafes are closed, and others are working on reduced hours/days as they navigate their way through COVID-19. However, I managed to catch some of the glorious sunshine we had last week and walked through Elizabeth Quay and got a takeaway coffee from AmberJacks.

Till next week enjoy your takeaway coffee!

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(<https://pediaa.com/reasons-for-australian-federation/#Reasons%20for>
Federation)

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