

# *A Take-away Coffee with Alessio*



## The Sixth Sunday of Easter – Year A

### Lectionary:

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Before I begin my column today, it was remiss of me not to mention the seventy-fifth anniversary of V-E Day last week. Of course, those commemorations were fairly “low-key” with COVID-19 restrictions in place. Nonetheless, we cannot but think how many innocent lives were lost to war and to be thankful for the bravery of those members of the armed forces who laid down their life on the battle grounds for their countries. “At the going down of the Sun and in the morning we shall remember them.” Victory in the Pacific Day (V-P Day) occurs on 15 August, so I shall be sure to write something about that in my column for that week.

Back to the Readings for this week now. There are two points I would like to dwell on. In the First Reading, Philip goes to Samaria to preach the Gospel and the people received his proclamation of the Gospel, saw the signs performed by God through Him accepted the Word of God and were baptized in the Lord’s Name. The Samaritans were not liked by the Jews. However, these Samaritans were open to everything that the Lord had to offer them through his apostles (Sourcebook 2017). A common theme in my column is how we are all instruments of the Lord and a means of evangelizing His people. We just have to plant a seed, and the Lord will take care of the rest. At the moment, our music groups are not meeting, but as I’ve said so often before, poor choice of music and poor presentation of music (amongst other factors) are key to people not coming to Church. We wouldn’t accept poor presentation of music at a concert and we should not think that it doesn’t matter in Church either. Music must touch the emotions and when it does, it is such a powerful instrument of teaching God’s people and bringing them into a deeper relationship with Him.

The second point I would like to make this week is that in the Gospel Jesus tells us that to be a disciple of His (and show our love for Him), means to keep his commandments (Sourcebook 2017). I'm not going to give an explanation of the Ten Commandments here, that is probably ten columns in themselves. However, we have certainly been tested with new rules and regulations over the past couple of months and have been asked to do things we wouldn't normally do. They have not been easy and if most of us had a choice we would make up an entirely different set of rules. However even in our Church communities we have had to abide by these restrictions (hopefully for the greater and long term good).

As a piece of music for your own reflection this week, I would like to draw your attention to Spirit and Grace, a hymn by Ricky Manalo CSP. A link to the audio file can be found <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoKR216fGuo>

This hymn gives us much to think about in light of the Readings this Sunday.

Now for a coffee this week, well I visited Elizabeth Quay late in the day last weekend and between the cafes being closed and a café running out of milk, I didn't get a coffee but I got plenty of fresh air, a beautiful view and an ice-cream. Gusto Gelato was open and so a scoop of their orange and passionfruit ice cream hit the spot on a beautiful sunny day!

Just to give you the heads up, next week's column will come out on Monday. The reason for that is I will be writing about the Pentecost Novena which begins on Friday next week, so I would like to give people time to read about the Novena and pray it if they would like to.

Till next week enjoy your takeaway coffee or ice cream!

Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

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