

A Coffee with Alessio



A week of Saints

Here we are at the end of another school term and what a term it has been – one like no other, where procedures and protocols changed by the hour and just when we thought everything was sorted – oh no, it wasn't because there was an updated procedure. So a special shout out to teachers in today's column and also to those people who support them. I have to say I have been very blessed by family and friends with their pastoral care during this term and I am very grateful to all those people for their friendship, kindness and support – God's hand was definitely at work in and through you! I hope you receive an abundance of blessings!

This week we celebrated Saints Peter and Paul on Monday. These two men were interesting choices by Jesus to be his apostles. We should note here, that it was Saint Matthias and not Saint Paul who was chosen to replace Judas in the original twelve. While the Apostles were spreading the Good News, Paul was busy persecuting Christians. Saint Peter let his mouth run away from him, and often said or did things before thinking. Remember, he said to Jesus he would stand by him at his Crucifixion and Jesus told Peter "you will deny me three times". So, in return for denying him three times, after Jesus rose from the dead he asked Peter three times "do you love me?"

Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, and at the beginning people were confused about him because he had all of a sudden changed his ways. It is interesting to note how these two men complemented each other – Peter the leader and Paul the Preacher. God has a plan for each of us and even the most unlikely person whom we might think could not fulfill a task or role could very well be the best fit for that task or role.

Today we celebrate another apostle, Saint Thomas. Saint Thomas is remembered for doubting the Resurrection of Jesus. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

After Thomas put his hand in the holes in Jesus' hand and side Jesus says to him: 'You believe because you have seen me. Happy are those who have not seen and still believe.'

So, there is a bit of Saints Peter, Paul and Thomas in each of us and with that both their good points and their bad. Like Saint Peter we are called to be leaders in our faith community. Jesus isn't asking us to be the Pope as Saint Peter was, but he is asking us to love him and be a shepherd to his people by our words and actions. As musicians, many of us are like little shepherds in our parish communities guiding our fellow musicians in liturgical protocol, music choices and preparing and teaching music to the highest possible standard.

Like Saint Paul, we are called to proclaim the Good News of Christ. Let's invite someone to Mass and then have a coffee and cake with them afterwards.

Finally, like Saint Thomas let us cry "My Lord and My God" and believe that Jesus truly is God and has worked so many marvels for us. We only need to open our eyes to the beauty around us.

This Sunday Jesus says in the Gospel:

"Come to me, all you who labour and overburdened and I will give you rest."

Yes, Jesus knows that following Him isn't always easy. Yet he gives us the grace and strength to carry on and it is precisely that witness to Him (when things aren't easy) that will attract other people to follow Him as well. Saints Peter, Paul and Thomas all changed their ways for the better to follow Christ and be His witnesses in the world and we must do the same.

As for a coffee and cake, last weekend I was with a friend at Zuccaro on Fitzgerald Street. It used to be 'Addison and Steele'. Their tiramisu and flat white was absolutely delightful and a worthwhile treat at the end of a week. The staff are very friendly and helpful.

Today's column is the last for a couple of weeks, while school holidays are on. So, I hope you enjoy your coffee and cake, have a chance to catch your breath and may God's peace be with you!

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References:

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