

A Coffee with Alessio



The Wisdom of Solomon

Lectionary:

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118 (119): 57, 72,76-77,127-130

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Welcome back to Term Three! I hope for those you who are teachers that you had a chance to catch your breath during the holidays and that you also got to do some fun activities as well that brought you joy and relaxation!

In the First Reading this Sunday we hear the dialogue between Solomon and the Lord.

The Lord says to Solomon; “Ask what you would like me to give you.”

Solomon replies: “Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great.”

In reply the Lord said to Solomon: “I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none has had and none will after you.”

There is so much “wisdom” in this Sunday’s First Reading, particularly in light of all that we have experienced over the last few months with COVID-19 and the ever evolving situation.

The reading from the first book of Kings is a perfect guide for us each day of our lives, that we discern good from evil. Once we discern good from evil, we must do good works. Wisdom is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. So, while we’re praying for wisdom each day, we can

kill two birds with one stone, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in our decisions. Let us be open to using the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the crowds what the Kingdom of God is like. Jesus is telling us that we have to give everything up in order to find the kingdom – “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.”

Yes, where Jesus is – our treasure is also. What Jesus is really telling us in this Gospel passage this Sunday is that to follow Him requires absolute commitment. Commitment is one of those words that doesn't seem to mean much to us today, because often when people don't feel like doing something, they just temporarily or permanently drop the commitment. Jesus, however, wants our lives to be a commitment to Him. He isn't asking us to stand with our hands joined, looking into the sky 24/7. Rather, our time outside the liturgy should be a reflection of being a member of the Catholic community.

“Take the Word of God with You” by Christopher Walker will fit the liturgy perfectly this Sunday, and serves as a reminder to live a “Eucharistic life” outside of the Mass. Once we are dismissed from the liturgy, the “Mass” of our daily lives begins.

During the holidays, one of my favourite film score composers passed away – Ennio Morricone. I will say more about him in next week's column, as it will tie in with next week's topic.

As for coffee and cake, well I had the chance revisit some old favourites and try out a couple of new places. I had the best of both worlds on my coffee excursions. There were times where I was on my own and could still myself and read the paper, and then there were those times where I was with others – and each coffee and cake I had with someone else was a joyful experience, and an opportunity to find out a bit of “breaking news”.

This Sunday is the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus and also the patron saints of grandparents. The liturgy of the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time takes precedence over this feast. However, we can still give thanks to God for our grandparents. If they are living, let's see what we can do to show our appreciation to them. For those who have gone before us, let's pray in thanksgiving to the Lord for the blessing they were to us.

This week's coffee is coming to you from Mazurello's in Goderich Street. I was there with a friend last week, and their chocolate cannoli were absolutely delicious. I don't normally have chocolate cannoli – I'm a bit of a custard fan. However, their chocolate cannoli passed with flying colours along with a flat white. Absolutely delicious! As I'm having my cannoli this weekend, I'll remember my grandmother with fondness and thankfulness.

So, I hope you enjoy your coffee and cake this weekend and that it will be an extension of the liturgy which we celebrated in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Mass.

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

Friday 24 July 2020