

# *A Coffee with Alessio*



## 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

### **Lectionary:**

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9,11-13

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 84(85):9-14

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

In the Gospel reading this Sunday we hear how Jesus made the disciples get into a boat on their own while He sent the crowds away. In the evening, there was a heavy wind and the disciples became terrified. Peter then started walking across the lake to Jesus but began to sink when he felt the force of the wind. Peter said to Jesus: “Lord! Save me!”, and Jesus’ response was “Man of little faith, why did you doubt?”

We could all possibly identify with the disciples in this Gospel story. There are many times where all we can do is call on the Lord for His help, and like Peter say; “Lord! Save me!” The presence of the Lord is felt in many different ways and He uses people in the world to make His presence known and felt. In the First Reading this Sunday we hear how Elijah feels the presence of the Lord in a gentle breeze. So often, when a million things are going on, we really aren’t in the right head space to know or acknowledge God’s presence.

I think the Scripture Readings this weekend are rather pertinent especially with all that has gone in the world of late – not only the pandemic, but also the effect of the anxiety caused by it is having on people and of course that disastrous blast in Beirut earlier in the week. Jesus said to the disciples, “Do not be afraid,” and He addresses that message to you and me in 2020.

As I was preparing to write this week’s column, I read a beautiful analogy to the Gospel in the Universalis App about this Sunday’s Gospel Reading. It said:

“The Christian people is often depicted as a boat, with Peter at the helm. As in a boat, everyone has their part to play: kids to bring the excitement and the challenge, parents to take the responsibility, grandparents just to be there to comfort and reassure. Without Jesus they were getting exhausted... When Jesus appears everything changes.”

(Universalis App: 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A)

How true and beautiful this summary is. Yes, with Jesus our whole world changes for the better and He takes on our doubts, fears and failings, but also builds up and rejoices in our strengths and talents. As we hear the Gospel Reading this weekend, let us think about what we need to bring to the Lord, and let us also give serious thought and prayer as to how we can play our part in the boat of His Christian people, so that when people are sinking we can put flesh on Jesus’ words and say, “Do not be afraid, I am here to help you.”

As for music suggestions this weekend two hymns come to mind: “Eternal Father, strong to save” (CWBII #483), which is often known as the “Sailor’s hymn.” The tune is that which is used for “Lest we forget” at the ANZAC Day service. To complement that traditional hymn, “You are Mine” (CWBII #516) by David Haas also fits the liturgy extremely well, with the refrain starting “Do not be afraid, I am with you”.

One other comment before I finish this week’s column. Yesterday, 6 August, marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and this Sunday marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki. I’ll have more to say in next week’s column about World War II as we approach the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war next Saturday – 15 August (the Solemnity of the Assumption).

Now to coffee and cake this weekend. I was at Posto Matto with a friend last week and their trilogy of cannoli (custard, lemon and nutella) was a delight. Sharing those cannoli as I did is a good way to enjoy someone’s company and also try a bit of each flavour as well. Washed down with a flat-white was a good way to end a busy day.

I hope you enjoy your coffee and cake this week and may God’s blessings go with you!

Saint Mary of the Cross, Pray for us.

Mr Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

Friday 7 August 2020