

A Coffee with Alessio



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Lectionary:

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

In the First Reading this Sunday, Ezekiel is given a message to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways in the name of God. The Lord tells Ezekiel that if he doesn't warn the man the Lord will hold Ezekiel responsible for the wicked man's death. On the other hand, if Ezekiel does warn the wicked man and the wicked man doesn't change his ways, then the Lord will not hold Ezekiel responsible.

In contrast to that in the Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples advice on how to win someone back to the community. Like the story we heard in Ezekiel, Jesus is warning his disciples not to give up until all possibilities have been exhausted.

There are those times in life where we just don't seem to be getting through to people – it's like we're talking to a brick wall. It can be exhausting and frustrating. In those times, the advice we hear in both the First Reading and the Gospel this Sunday will hold us in good stead.

The end of the Gospel passage this Sunday serves as a reminder of the modes of the presence of Christ in our Liturgy. He tells us: "For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them." In recent times, that phrase has taken on a whole new meaning as our gatherings were banned, and we gathered virtually, before slowly but surely being able to gather in groups for public worship. There are still many places where because of the increased number of COVID-19 cases, where people cannot gather for worship. Let us remember those people in our prayers and in particular pray for their mental health and well-being.

As for hymn suggestions this Sunday, there are a few that come to mind.

-Seek ye first (AOV1 #48)

-Though we are many (CWBII #627)

-We walk by faith (AOV1 #63, CWBII #641, GA #447)

-Where two or three have gathered (CWBII #640)

These hymn texts expound further upon the message and text in the Scripture Readings this weekend.

As for a coffee and cake this week, it's back to good old Lawley's. Last weekend we were blessed with some glorious sunshine and I tried to make the most of it and sat outside their cafe. They had a coffee and cake special – so I tried their raspberry brûlée. Oh, it was absolutely delicious. Washed down with a flat white and then a walk soaking in God's glorious sunshine – what more could one ask for!

Wishing all our fathers and spiritual fathers (the clergy) a very happy Fathers' Day this Sunday!

Till next week – enjoy your coffee and cake!

Mr Alessio Loiacono

Music Field Officer

Friday 4 September 2020