

# *A Coffee with Alessio*



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

### Lectionary:

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The Scripture Readings this Sunday illustrate to us that God's ways are not our ways. The First Reading from the prophet Isaiah, which is one of my favourite passages in Scripture, is summarised as follows: "My thoughts are not your thoughts." Yes, indeed, how often do we plan things only to have the plans turned upside down. Just a couple of weeks ago I had one of those days where everything went pear shaped from the minute I got up till the minute I went to bed. I wondered what the purpose of that day was because whilst nothing life-threatening happened with constant change of plans, I must admit by the end of the day I was a bit frustrated! However, I think the Lord does that to us all once in a while to remind us that we are in the back-passenger seat (of the bus) and He is in the driver's seat.

In the First Reading this Sunday we hear:

"Seek the Lord while He is still to be found,  
call to Him while He is still near."

Yes, dear friends, the Lord is to be found in all sorts of situations. If you are lucky enough to have someone in your life who would do anything for you, then grab that person with both arms and run, thanking the Lord for showing His goodness to you through that person. He is very near to you. We shouldn't turn down a good deed! We might not get a second chance to experience that person's kindness or for the Lord to be very near to us either!

The Lord can also be found in those moments in our lives when, as I mentioned before, things do go awry. Sometimes without us realizing it, He is helping us dodge a bullet, a bullet which may have been even more painful than what we experienced at that moment.

Music-wise this weekend, two hymns come to mind. Again, James McAuley and Richard Connolly (whom I call the Australian Catholic Church Rodgers and Hammerstein) wrote "Seek, O Seek the Lord" which expresses the text of the First Reading with music extremely well. A more contemporary suggestion would be "I have loved you" by Michael Joncas. Again, this hymn tells us to seek the face of the Lord.

As we participate in the Liturgy this weekend, let us commend to the Lord our needs and intentions, and also pray that we can discern what to do when situations go awry. Let us always be ready to make lemonade when a lemon has come our way. In this way we can live out the words of the response to the psalm this weekend: for the Lord will be very near to us when we call on Him.

Just to reiterate the point of calling on the Lord in our time of need, on Thursday 1 October we celebrate that great Carmelite Saint - Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. I invite you to join with me in praying a Novena to her, not only for our own intentions, but those of others as well. The Novena begins on Tuesday next week (22 September).

St. Therese, Flower of fervor and love, please intercede for us.

Fill our hearts with your pure love of God.

As we approach and celebrate your feast day,  
make us more aware of the goodness of  
God and how well He tends His garden.

Instill in us your little way of doing  
ordinary things with extra-ordinary love.

Give us the heart of a child who wonders  
at life and embraces everything with loving enthusiasm.

Teach us your delight in God's ways  
so that divine charity may blossom in our hearts.

Little Flower of Jesus, bring our petitions  
*(mention in silence here)*  
before God, our Father.

With your confidence, we come before Jesus  
as God's children,

because you are our heavenly friend.

As we celebrate the Feast Day of your  
homecoming in heaven,

continue to  
shower roses and grace upon us.

Amen

<https://www.littleflower.org/prayers/prayers-to-st-therese/>

As for a coffee and cake this week, it's back to Posto Matto. I was there with a friend a couple of weeks ago and true its name – it was a mad place - absolutely full to the brim! Anyhow, their brownie was decadent and was a nice way to finish a very busy day with a coffee.

Till next week – enjoy your coffee and cake!

Saint Thérèse, pray for us.

Mr Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

Friday 18 September 2020