

# *A Coffee with Alessio*



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

### Lectionary:

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24(25):4-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

In the First Reading this Sunday, the prophet Ezekiel puts a confronting thought to us – it is not what the Lord does that is unjust, but rather what we do that is unjust. So often, we are ready to blame the Lord for various things in our lives. We confuse the Lord allowing suffering in our lives with the Lord creating suffering in our lives. The two situations are very different. Oh yes, there are many times I'm not sure if the Lord is listening and/or acting on my prayer intentions the way I would like. There are also those times when I think, why do I bother? However, faithfulness and commitment will see the light of day if we persevere even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Faithfulness and commitment lead very well into the discussion on the Gospel reading for this Sunday, where we hear the story of two sons who have been asked by their father to do something. The first son said no, but then thought better of it and changed his mind to fulfil his father's request. The second son said yes, but then changed his mind. The first son repented of his deeds and changed his ways for the better, whereas the second son demonstrated a complete lack of faithfulness and commitment. So often these days, people organize a gathering (even something simple as a catching up for a coffee), and then a better offer may come along, so people change their mind. True friendship means keeping to commitments (unless of course a serious emergency arises). Jesus demands a total commitment on our part to Him, regardless of the cost to us. Our commitment to Him, however, it not only in our worship, but also in how we live our lives. People should know we are followers of Christ, both by our attendance and active participation in the liturgy, and also by our kind deeds and actions towards our family, friends and others.

In terms of cafés, I recently went to A Posto, off Homer Street. It is a hidden gem. They have a variety of decadent muffins and cakes and offer both indoor and outdoor service. On a sunny day it would be beautiful outside there. The staff are friendly. I had a pear and cinnamon muffin with my coffee – absolutely delicious. I am looking forward to going back during the holidays. The name of this café - A Posto, translates as “everything in order”, or “everything in its place”. How appropriate for this weekend’s readings. We must ask ourselves, is everything in our life in order and pleasing to God, or are we like the second son (in the Gospel story), who had things in order in theory, but not in practice?

Two familiar hymns come to mind with the liturgy this Sunday: “Amazing Grace” and “Holy God we praise Thy Name”.

Yesterday (Thursday 24 September) was the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy – the patronal feast of the Sisters of Mercy. We owe so much to the Sisters of Mercy, particularly in our Archdiocese, for they opened the first (Catholic) school back in 1846 in Victoria Square - what we now know as Mercedes College. To the Sisters of Mercy, we salute you in gratitude for the wonderful work you have done here and pray God’s blessings will be upon you and your ministries.

School breaks up today after another hectic term. For those of you who are teachers, I hope you will have an opportunity to stop, rest and do some relaxing and enjoyable activities. Today’s column will be the last for a couple of weeks. The next column will be issued on Friday 16 October.

Today is also three months to Christmas. It is really is time to start thinking about Christmas music and having Plan B ready just in case restrictions are still in place.

I am republishing the Novena to Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, which began on Tuesday this week. Saint Thérèse’s feast day will be on Thursday next week. We can never do with enough heavenly help! If you haven’t started praying the novena yet and you would like to, you can pray it for nine days in a row from when you start.

Saint Thérèse, 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/>

Till next term - enjoy your coffee and cake!

Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us.  
Saint Thérèse, pray for us.

Mr Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

Friday 25 September 2020