

A Coffee with Alessio



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Lectionary:

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

In the Scripture Readings this Sunday, the Lord asks us to do some things which are rather foreign in our day and age: to be kind to the stranger, to support widows and orphans and to lend without asking for anything in return. The Gospel Reading echoes the sentiments expressed in the First Reading whereby Jesus explains the two great commandments from which all the other commandments hang – not only The Ten Commandments given to Moses, but the other 613 commandments that were part of the Jewish Law.

Jesus summarises the commandments, by commanding us to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and then to love our neighbour as we do ourselves.

If we were to look around the globe today, we could be forgiven for thinking that what Jesus said is not at the forefront of peoples' minds. Yet, so much love, care and concern for God and neighbour happens daily, quietly behind the scenes.

It is very easy when someone asks us for help, to put them down the priority list, or to say, "I'm busy now, I'll do it later." It is going to be impossible to help everybody, but each day provides us with opportunities to serve God and neighbour, and by doing so, the world should be a better place. We too, should feel uplifted when we carry out acts of charity.

In terms of music this Sunday, two hymns come to mind: "A new commandment" and "Love is His Word". Both hymns express the need to love God and neighbour. In actual fact, as Saint John tells us in his first Epistle, loving God requires love of neighbour.

Before I conclude, there are three other topics I wish to mention. Next Sunday (1 November) is the Solemnity of All Saints. I mentioned this last week, but I think in light of what the year has brought us, it would be good practice to ensure the Solemnity is celebrated with high quality and well-presented music. It is a solemnity and should be celebrated with great festivity. All Souls' Day is the day after, and those Masses should include music as well.

Speaking of feast days in the liturgical year, Advent will be upon us in five weeks' time. That may seem a long time away, but it seems to come around faster each year. Now is the time to be thinking about music for Advent and Christmas. This week, the Government announced that Western Australia would remain in Phase Four until at least Christmas. Christmas Masses should have music, so the extension of the restrictions may require musicians to think how they are going to celebrate Christmas without over taxing anyone.

Thirdly, it was remiss of me to mention in last week's column that another faithful Presentation Sister, Sr Peter Doyle PBVM went to her eternal reward during the school holidays. Sr Peter taught in a number of Presentation Schools in WA, worked in Papua New Guinea and also worked in Saint Mary's Parish, Leederville. May she rest in peace!

Now to a coffee and cake for this week. Van's in Cottesloe comes to mind. Their orange cake with a coffee is a good staple to have. Parking can be an issue and one may need to park at the railway station across the street. However, on a sunny day, sitting outside there to enjoy a coffee and cake is a way of giving thanks to the lord for the blessing of sunshine!

Till next week - enjoy your coffee and cake!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

Friday 23 October 2020