

A Coffee with Alessio



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Lectionary:

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 62:2-8

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

We are now on the homestretch to the end of the liturgical year. There are only three more Sundays (and weeks) until the end of the liturgical year. As we head there, the Sunday readings focus on the four Last Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell. These readings will culminate on the feast of Christ the King where in this year's cycle of readings we will hear the story about separating the sheep and goats, and about the Lord asking us to give an account of our lives, in particular whether we gave of ourselves to others in various ways.

In the Gospel Reading this Sunday we have the parable of the five sensible virgins who had enough oil for their lamps and five foolish virgins who didn't. The five sensible ones decide not to share their oil with the five foolish ones. After hearing this Gospel passage we might be confused – for we might be receiving a mixed message, because the five sensible virgins were rewarded even though they did not share their oil. got to heaven (without sharing their oil). However, the main message of this Gospel story is that we must always be prepared to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Ultimately, that is the point of our lives here on earth. Our lives are meant to prepare us to see God face to face, and to enjoy eternal joy in Heaven. Each day of our lives, whilst we are focused on the present, we must also be mindful of the future.

I think there is another lesson we can learn from this reading and that is we shouldn't leave everything to the last minute. There are times where unforeseen circumstances arise and we need to change things in a hurry. If, however, everything is left to the last minute without allowing adequate time for preparation that is not a good way to be.

My experience of those people who leave everything to the last minute is they stress themselves out (unnecessarily) and they stress everyone else out – that way of being is contrary to this Sunday's Gospel reading.

Anyhow, what are some musical choices for the liturgy this Sunday?

The Taize chant "Wait for the Lord" "Wait for the Lord" (CWBII #251, GA#283) is suitable as is "Wake, awake for night is flying" (CWB #853). Another choice could be "The voice of God" (CWB #835, CWBII #621, GA #476).

As for a coffee and cake, since the Gospel is about a wedding feast, somewhere that sells fruit cake seems appropriate. I am going to try the fruit cake at Jamaica Blue and have a coffee afterwards. Whenever I go to a wedding I always look forward to the dessert as well as good company!

Till next week enjoy your coffee and cake!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

Friday 6 November 2020