

# *A Coffee with Alessio*



## 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

### Lectionary:

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 127(128):1-5

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Here we go again - the love life is back in the Scriptures this weekend. Last Sunday, Jesus compared the image of a wedding to the Kingdom of heaven. This weekend we will hear about the attributes There is nothing like a good love story - love is one of those things that brings so much joy. However, love also brings pain. If we truly love someone, we would do anything for them including personal sacrifice especially when it is inconvenient for us to do so. The First Reading says:

"A perfect wife – who can find her?  
She is far beyond the price of pearls."

Yes, indeed the perfect wife is rare and beyond the price of pearls. If any husband reading this column has found the perfect wife, he should give thanks to God for the blessing she is. Interestingly enough at the end of the First Reading it says:

"Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty".

Charm is fine as long as there is substance to it. It is empty when it isn't lived out. Beauty can also be empty if the beautiful person doesn't live the beauty out either. People must see the charm and beauty in us, **both internally and externally.**

At the end of the Gospel Reading Jesus says:  
For to everyone who has will be given more,  
and he will have more than enough;  
but from the man who has not,  
even what he has will be taken away."

Some people seem to have so much expected of them, whilst others don't. However, God has blessed us all with gifts and talents. Some have many, others few. He does expect us to share what we have with others, and even more so those who need something. The Lord also asks us to share our financial resources for the good of others as well.

Music wise this weekend, "Christ, be our Light" and "The Servant Song" tie in well with the readings. Both hymns explore the element of service which is so central to following Christ.

As for a coffee and cake, I was at Kailis Brothers with a friend last weekend. I have mentioned the sticky date pudding elsewhere before. The sticky date seems to be relevant to the Scripture Readings this weekend. Before finding the perfect wife, a lot of dating has to go on - mixed with some imperfections no doubt. If you can make your date stick though, that is a recipe for a blessed marriage. I'm always amazed when I read the Blind Date section in the West TV guide, because one party will say "he is not enough of this", or "she is too much of that". Not too many blind dates have been successful in the last little while, but last weekend's seemed to have got off on the right foot. I hope and pray it works out for them. A sticky date pudding seems to be the way to go this weekend!

I know we are not eHarmony or Elite Singles here at the Centre for Liturgy, but as I have always said the Church must engage with the world. That is what Christ asked the Apostles to do - to baptize nations and proclaim the Good News. So, just as the Church must engage with the world in a variety of topics, marriage is no different and the readings this weekend offer us an opportunity to view a husband and wife's love as a way of mirroring the sacrificial love of Christ. They also provide an opportunity for us to examine how we as individuals can contribute to the betterment of the community by sharing our time, treasure and talents to build up God's Kingdom here on earth. After all, every good gift has come to us from the Lord Himself!

Till next week enjoy your coffee and cake!

Mr Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

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