

A Coffee with Alessio



Christ the King – Year A

Lectionary:

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22 (23):1-3a,5-6

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

This Sunday is the last Sunday of this liturgical year. The liturgical year will end with the Saturday morning Mass next Saturday 28 November.

Over the past few Sundays, the Scripture Readings have focused on the four last things. Those readings culminate with the Gospel Reading this Sunday with the Last Judgement. That Reading can be very confronting. As we listen to the readings this Sunday let's think about how we can better serve the needs of other people.

A few weeks ago, a friend of mine went to visit a friend who was in hospital. When I asked my friend how her friend was, she was feeling sad. She felt that her visit wasn't very fruitful because her friend was dozing in and out. That was because her friend had a very serious operation and was on powerful painkillers. She was starting to feel like her visits were a waste of time. To cut a long story short her friend has begun the slow journey to recovery.

In the Gospel Reading this Sunday we will hear Jesus say:

"I was sick and you visited me,... in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

Yes, every act of kindness is never a waste of time. In the end all the good we do for our neighbour is like doing it for Jesus. Doing kind deeds especially when they cause personal inconvenience is a sacrifice that the Lord smiles upon.

Music wise this Sunday, "Shepherd hymns" such as "The Lord is my Shepherd", "Crimond" or "Like a Shepherd" are appropriate and relate to the First Reading, but they should not be used for the Responsorial Psalm. "Rejoice! The Lord is King" is a solid text with a strong tune to back it up. "Love is His Word" relates strongly to the Gospel - as the text illustrates our need for service of God and neighbour.

As for a coffee and cake this weekend, I recently was some friends at Lupo Lab in Mount Hawthorn. Their dessert menu provides quite a treat! I had their zeppole. Various regions in Italy make these delights differently. Generally speaking they are savory but they can be sweet. The Lupo Lab version is a choux pastry ring, with homemade custard and sour cherries on top. It looks like a crown to me. How fitting this Sunday as we celebrate Christ the King. The custard symbolizing the joy and love Christ had for the people in His Kingdom and the sour cherries the blood that he shed for the sins of people past, present and future – all done with unconditional love.

Two other comments I would like to mention before I finish this week's column. Firstly, tomorrow (Saturday) is the feast of the Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple – the patronal feast of the Presentation Sisters. To the Presentation Sisters, I wish you a very happy feast day. I hope you celebrate with joy and thanksgiving and I pray God's blessings will be with you! Sunday is also the feast of Saint Cecilia. This year, however, because it falls on a Sunday, the feast of Christ the King takes precedence over it. Nonetheless a happy feast day to all the musicians who read this column. You provide a tremendous service to your parish communities, so I hope and pray you have a wonderful day on Sunday. Make sure you take the time to celebrate!

I know this past week we celebrated the 100th anniversary of QANTAS, I'll leave that topic to another column.

Wishing you all a very happy feast of Christ the King, and as you can see by the other feast days that happen this weekend, we have much to celebrate!

Till next week enjoy your coffee and cake!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

Friday 20 November 2020