

A Coffee with Alessio



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time- Year A

Lectionary:

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 102 (103): 1-4,8,10,12-13

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

This Sunday will be the last Sunday before we begin the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday next week. In the pre-Vatican II Liturgy there were three Sundays before Lent when violet vestments were worn. These Sundays were known as Septuagesima (seventy days before Easter), Sexagesima (that's a catchy title *isn't it!*, sixty days before Easter) and Quinquagesima (fifty days before Easter). In the Italian language Lent is known as *Quaresima* (forty days before Easter). Now I can hear some of you thinking these facts give us a great history lesson, but what do they have to do with us? Well, some of the antiphons and readings used on these Sundays of Ordinary Time before Lent are taken from those very Sundays I mentioned above in the Tridentine Liturgy, which has come to be known as the Extraordinary form of Mass.

The readings this Sunday are a very good preparation for Lent because we hear how we must love our neighbour (friends and enemies alike)- a challenge for us all.

As I'm writing this column, I have just finished reading the Letters to the Editor in *The West Australian*. There are some letters which are a response to a letter about someone thinking that *The West* shouldn't publish a quotation from Scripture every day. How sad! Anyhow, there have been a number of letters for the Scripture quotations to be included- good on those people! This discussion is so pertinent to the liturgy this Sunday because in the Gospel Acclamation we will proclaim:

"Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God."

We cannot be part-time Christians. If we are going to be followers of Christ then our whole being needs to be permeated by Christ. We must keep His word so that we can grow perfectly in God's love. The readings this Sunday challenge us very much to be

authentic followers of the Gospel. It isn't easy, I know. There are plenty of people who drive me nuts and I have no doubt there are people in your life who challenge and test your ability to be kind.

I mentioned in last week's column I would give some suggestions for the Liturgy this Sunday as we wrap up Ordinary Time. This Sunday will be the last Sunday we sing Alleluia in our liturgy. In fact, the Alleluia continues until next Tuesday. From Ash Wednesday there will be no Alleluia till the Easter Vigil.

As a recessional hymn this Sunday you can farewell the Alleluia with one of these hymns:

-All Creatures of our God and King (CWB #618; CWBII #446; GA #395)

-Celtic Alleluia (AOV1 #13; GA #141)- Verses 1-4

-Go to the world! (CWBII #496)

-Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven (AOV1 #78; CWB #789; CWBII #589)

There is a hymn for Shrove Tuesday which you can access by clicking on this link <https://liturgy.co.nz/worship-resources/shrove>
This hymn can be sung to the tune of "Praise my soul".

For Ash Wednesday, the following hymns would be appropriate:

-Ashes (AOV2 #16; GA #209)

-Hosea (this hymn would be most appropriate during the distribution of the ashes)
(AOV1 #30; GA #213)

-O Father I know I can count on your mercy (CWB #762; CWBII #122)

I hope I've given you enough food for thought musically speaking. In next week's column I will resume my series on the wonderful devotion of the Stations of the Cross. We will pick up where we left off last year and begin at the Seventh Station.

This past Monday (17 February), was the feast of the Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order. I had the privilege of working for the Servite Friars for seven years in Saint Denis Parish, Joondanna. I was lucky enough to even work with a couple of priests who read music. (If your priest reads music make sure you buy him a present at Christmas time- he is worth his weight in gold!) I always look back on my time at St Denis' in gratitude. In our Archdiocese we have Servite Friars and Sisters. The Servites were founded by these seven men who abandoned their homes and businesses to seek a life of prayerful seclusion, eventually establishing themselves on Monte Senario. The Friar Servants of Mary paid homage to Our Lady by living a simple and humble life (Sourcebook 2017, page 89). So, to the Servite Friars (especially those in the Australian Delegation), I hope you had a wonderful feast day on Monday and we pray for God's continued blessings upon you all and your various ministries.

Now coffee and cake. Yes, well Tuesday (next week) is Shrove Tuesday. So, I suggest a place with pancakes. Three places come to mind: Lawley's, Dome and The Westin. The pancakes at the Westin come with fruit- mouth-wateringly delicious!!

Till next week, enjoy your coffee and cake!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
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Friday 21 February 2020