

A Coffee with Alessio



Welcome back to Ordinary Time!

It has been since the end of February that we had a green border for this column. We are now back into Ordinary Time. The Sunday cycle has joined with the weekday cycle. This Sunday we celebrate the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A). I'm not going to focus on the readings for this Sunday. However, I would like to make the point that Ordinary Time, is by no means 'Ordinary'. Rather, we aren't focusing on any one aspect of Christ's life during this time of the year. That is we aren't focusing on his coming (Advent), Birth (Christmas), his preparation for his passion and death (Lent), or his Resurrection (Easter). Instead we are focusing on his ministry. I liken Ordinary Time, to birthdays in between decades. That is turning 22-29, or turning 31-39. I think you get the point, that you aren't celebrating a specific milestone birthday (moving into a new decade), but rather you are celebrating just an 'ordinary birthday' and giving thanks to God for another year, and the blessings of the past, as well as asking His blessings for the future. That is what we do each time we come to Mass. We place on the Altar, with the Bread and Wine, our own needs, petitions, and thanksgiving.

Now that we are in Ordinary Time, from now until the end of the liturgical year, this might be a time for you to get together with your fellow musicians, and choose

perhaps 3 or 4 hymns that are unknown to yourselves and/ or your congregation and have a listen to them, and see if they would be worthwhile for you to introduce them in your parish. Some people don't like trying out new hymns because they are afraid they won't work. Failure is not a pleasant experience! However, it is a part of life, and as long as we learn from it, It won't have been a total failure. Sometimes, life is about taking a risk. So, it is with our church music. However, as I say, try it out with your fellow musicians before you test it out on your people. This 'pilot audience' is an important part of the process. *Why?* Because if your musicians don't like something, that will come across to the people, and they won't be enthused to join in either.

As we go through the Sundays in Ordinary Time, I will endeavor to make suggestions of hymns that you can try out with your people. The Last Sunday of Ordinary Time is on Sunday 26 November (Christ the King). It will be here soon enough. So, we always must be looking ahead to the future.

Since, we are now in Ordinary Time, a 'green cake' would be most appropriate. Perhaps an apple pastry or a big slice of apple pie warmed up with a dollop of crema or ice-cream will be the way to go. Add a latte or a flat white to that, and your dessert for this Sunday is sorted!

God bless,

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

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