

## *A Coffee with Alessio*



### Introduction and Welcome

My name is Alessio Loiacono, and I am the Music Field Officer for the Archdiocesan Centre for Liturgy. I am 34 years old, one of three children, and I teach in two schools in the Archdiocese of Perth. Additionally, I serve as organist in the Archdiocese. All of that keeps me out of trouble!

As often as I can, I would like to write a column to give support to liturgical musicians, sharing some of my own ideas on what you might be able to do your parishes and schools.

The idea for this column came from several sources: a couple of priests friends of mine, who have written columns, and a couple of friends who are teachers and post a weekly blog and/or their own websites, relating daily life events to various aspects of the Faith.

I think 'personal engagement' is a key element to helping the Church not only survive, but thrive, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Church cannot be completely separated from the 'outside world'. However, that does not mean the Church changes its teachings to suit the secular world. Rather, the Church must be 'in the world, but not of the world'. Without losing its integrity, it must engage with the world in order to proclaim the Gospel, as Jesus Himself commanded: "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News."

Along the way you will hear my stories of having my daily coffee, going about my work, plus the occasional baking and shopping (particular pastimes of mine) and how all these activities can relate to liturgy and music. Hence, the title of this column is *A Coffee with Alessio*. Hopefully it will serve as example of how the sacred can harmonise with the secular quite well. (In my humble opinion, an effective liturgical musician needs a good cuppa now and then. Tasty muffins and nice clothes don't hurt, either! But most importantly, one must be aware of what is going on in the world).

I hope to make this a weekly column that will be posted on the Centre for Liturgy website. Perhaps you will find it interesting, informative, helpful – and perhaps even entertaining (I will try to include one of my famous 'one liners' from time to time!).

So-until next week, enjoy your coffee!

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