

A Coffee with Alessio



The Season of Easter

This is my first column since the Easter season began. We have been busy with Holy Week ceremonies, and hopefully we have had an opportunity to take a break during the second week of the school holidays. I hope you had a wonderful Easter Sunday, and that all your Holy Week ceremonies went well. I know you would have put a lot of time, effort and energy into the music, ensuring that not only everything went well, but that the liturgies and music of Holy Week would inspire people, and help them meditate upon what we were commemorating and celebrating during that week.

As I've mentioned before, Easter is a fifty-day celebration. The "Alleluia" continues in the antiphons of the liturgy as well the Gospel Acclamation. It is also appropriate to include hymns that "Alleluia" in them during the Easter season.

This week, we commemorated ANZAC Day. Next year will mark the centenary of the end of World War I. To this end, later in the year, we are planning a music workshop on ANZAC Day music in preparation for this centenary next year. More details will follow later in the year. In the meantime, it wouldn't hurt if you sang the National Anthem at the end of Mass this Sunday.

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Easter. In the Gospel this Sunday, we hear the story of how the disciples meet Jesus on their way to Emmaus. This Gospel story is very Eucharistic, and remember it is the Risen Christ we receive in Holy

Communion. Therefore, hymns that focus on the Eucharist would be most appropriate for this Sunday.

I mentioned to you in my Holy Week column, that just as we take up the “Alleluia” at the Easter Vigil, so too I would take up eating *Baci* chocolates again. I have enjoyed eating those- they are good quality chocolates, and are symbolic of the good quality music we should provide in our liturgies for the people of God. Pancakes have also been on the menu for me too, as we continue this great festival, celebrating the Risen Christ.

Since we have commemorated ANZAC Day this week, an ANZAC biscuit or two with a coffee would be most appropriate! Enjoy!

Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

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