

A Coffee with Alessio



The Sixth Sunday of Easter- Year A

We have three more Sundays of the Easter season to go including this Sunday. Next weekend of course we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, and then the following Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. Just before I go on, you may have noticed that the columns for this week and the next two weeks have been posted ahead of time. Our webmaster is working on other projects for the next couple of weeks, so we thought we would try to get these columns out early. You may even like to read these columns ahead of time.

The summary heading for this Sunday in the Missal is "Proclaim the Good News." As I've written before, through our music we are ministers of evangelisation, and we have an important role to play in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. How we deliver our music in the liturgy plays an important part in our communicating the message of Jesus to his people. You see as the Second Vatican Council rightly stated: *Good celebrations foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations may weaken and destroy it*" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, para. 14).

Never, has a truer phrase been spoken. I cannot tell you how many times people have come up to me in the street, while I'm having a coffee or at the shops and said to me: "we really liked the music you played at a particular liturgy. It did so much for us." I'm not telling you this information to pat myself on the back. I don't need praise from anyone. I do it all for the glory of God. However, it is good and encouraging to know that the music I provide is doing something for the people of God, and deepening their relationship with God. After all, that's what we are supposed to do. It would be awful if someone came up to me and said, "you played so poorly, I couldn't pray!"

So, on that note, let us continue to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, through our careful

preparation of music for the liturgy and then executing it well, so that we deepen our relationship with God, and others can do the same.

After you finish Mass this week, go out with your musicians for a coffee, and talk about what I've written. It will be interesting for you to hear different viewpoints on the above topic.

Enjoy your coffee and cake!

Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

Friday 19 May 2017