

## *A Coffee with Alessio*



### **The Launch of Catholic Worship Book II- Part 2**

Last week, I gave you a brief introduction into this new resource that has been published for use across Australia. I gave you a bit of a taste of what we can expect. Today's column actually ties so well into the Communion Antiphon for this Sunday about the vine and the branches and the branches bearing much fruit.

Well, I went and had my coffee at Jamaica Blue last week and that gave me some time to look through the contents of the hymnal. Coffees are great for when you just need to chill out! I think the CWB II, has tried to keep true to our traditional church music and keep that heritage alive, whilst embracing music that has been composed since the Second Vatican Council. I could write a column on each of those composers and that will keep me going for at a least a year if not two! The point is this, some music has survived through the ages and some that was experimental after the Second Vatican Council, lasted only for a short time. (To be honest with you- thanks be to God I'm a youngster who missed out on so much of that experimentation, as a lot of that music was actually unsuitable for the liturgy and very poorly written). At the same time, some traditional hymn texts and melodies for various reasons didn't last much past Vatican II either. Of course, we also have the copyright issue, and some publishers are reluctant to give permission to have their materials reprinted in outside resources. I'm sure that copyright had its part to play in what could and could not be included in CWB II.

Well, there is a wealth of music in Volume II of this new resource for the Seasons of the Church's year, feast days and Sacraments. Some compositions have appeared in other resources previously and others haven't. There is even music included for the Solemnity of St Mary MacKillop of The Cross. I think every parish and school should make learning a hymn or two for her feast day a priority. After all, she Australia's only saint!

It is very pleasing to note that there is a good amount of Australian music included in this hymnal. There is music by my favourite Australian composers Richard Connolly and James McAuley. It's a shame that not all their hymns are included in there. There is also music composed by Christopher Wilcock SJ, Michael Herry SM, and Jennifer O'Brien, who works for the Office of Worship in the Archdiocese of Adelaide.

When you finally get your hands on your own copy of this resource, I encourage you to go to the index of hymns and highlight in one colour the hymns that you know or your parish uses, and in another highlight the ones you don't know. There will be some, I know, because some music has been composed specifically for this resource. As the music director or leader in your parish, you are like the musical vine, and it is up to you to make sure that your musical branches (that is your choir members and instrumentalists) bear good fruit. There are two ways you can do this. Firstly, by making sure everyone is well prepared with their music, but secondly by broadening and extending their repertoire, so that they and your congregation don't become stale singing the same music over and over.

At this point, we are still finalising details of the launch, but they will be forthcoming I promise.

On another note, I just would like to draw your attention to the fact that Pentecost Sunday is three weeks away. Every parish should sing the Sequence for this Solemnity and there is no excuse for not doing so. OCP has published a very singable and accessible tact of the Sequence titled, *Come, O Holy Spirit Come!* The text has been set to the tune of Ode to Joy. It's a hymn we sing once a year and set to the familiar tune of Ode to Joy, it will raise the roof. I have even done it with school children and it worked a treat.

Enjoy your coffee this week!

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Friday April 22 2016