

A Coffee with Alessio



Pentecost Sunday

Today, we celebrate another important solemnity- Pentecost Sunday. Today also marks the end of the Easter Season- fifty days of celebrating the Risen Christ. At the end of Mass today, we have the dismissal with the double Alleluia, for the last time till the Easter Vigil next year (see CWB II #21 for the music).

In this weekend's liturgy, the Sequence follows the Second Reading. There are only four times a year in the liturgy we have a Sequence- Easter Sunday and the Octave, Pentecost Sunday, Corpus Christi Sunday and Our Lady of Sorrows. I won't go into the history of the Sequence in the liturgy now. I'll leave that topic for another column. Since we sing these hymns once a year, it is important to make sure the people are familiar with the tune otherwise it is going to fall flat. The next thing to remember is to repeat the same tune for the sequence each year. People will get the hang of it after a couple of years. *Catholic Worship Book II* contains three settings of the sequence for Pentecost Sunday (see 378a, 379 and 380 in the hymnal). If you aren't ready to sing the Sequence for Pentecost Sunday this year, plan ahead to sing it on Pentecost Sunday 2018.

If your music group is able to sing hymns in various languages, that would be appropriate this Sunday. Also, if you are able, it would be appropriate to have

the Universal Prayers read in different languages, with a common response in English to each of the petitions. Again, in *Catholic Worship Book II* (#523), *Jesus Christ, you are my life* is in several different languages. At the launch of the *Catholic Worship Book II* last year we had the hymn sung in English, Italian and Vietnamese. It was very a moving and uplifting experience.

Since red is the liturgical colour today, I'm going to find somewhere that makes red velvet cake to have with my coffee. It will be the 'icing on the cake' for Pentecost Sunday!

Enjoy your coffee and cake!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

Friday 2 June 2017