

A Coffee with Alessio



The CWB II one year on

As I was looking through my columns from last year (so I don't repeat myself word for word), I noticed that last week marked one year since we launched *Catholic Worship Book II* (CWB II) here in Perth. The launch was an outstanding success and was a team effort. In fact, it was a good example of the principles of subsidiarity and collegiality. Two terms that are very prominent in the documents (and principles) of Vatican II.

Following on from the launch last year, the Centre for Liturgy ran several workshops on how to use CWB II. We haven't run such workshops this year, but rather we have included material from CWB II in our workshops. We may look again next year at running a workshop on how to effectively use CWB II (alongside other resources parishes currently use). One of the strong points of CWB II, is its emphasis on music for the Sacraments. There is a good variety of music to include in sacramental liturgies, and there is a good selection of music in the hymnal that is suitable for children. I like the selection of music for children in the hymnal, because the book aims to broaden the repertoire of both our Catholic school teachers and their students. Children should not just be singing 'children's music in the liturgy. I'll discuss that topic in another column.

The national launch of the hymnal which took place in Melbourne last year can be viewed at <https://www.catholic.org.au/cwb2/national-launch> and after the launch there was an interview on ABC radio which can be downloaded at the following address <http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/sundaynights/sunday-nights---a-new-way-for-catholic-worship/7510196>. These audio recordings will give you an opportunity to listen to some of the music contained in the hymnal. One thing that I think was a very wise move on the part of the editors of CWB II was **not** to produce sound recordings of every piece of music in the hymnal. Why do I say it was a **wise move**? I say it was a wise move, because recordings are meant to be used for teaching purposes. That is, listen to the piece of music so that the choir can become familiar with it. They were not intended for use in worship. Live music should be the norm for our liturgy, not the exception. I know there are times where we just can't do otherwise, but those times should be the exception, not the norm!

So, I once again encourage you and your fellow musicians to look through CWB II, listen to the recordings above over a coffee and cake select some 'new music' for your community. While you're at it, get your parish priest to join you as well. Including him is a good example of collegiality, which I mentioned at the beginning of this week's column.

I'm going to enjoy my coffee. I hope you enjoy yours too!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

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