

A Coffee with Alessio



Lent Part II

This week we are back to the café scene, after my weeks hiatus last week talking about David Jones and how Lent can be like a personal stocktake sale for ourselves.

During Lent there is no Alleluia for the Gospel Acclamation. There is also no Alleluia in any of the hymns or prayers in the liturgy. This is because Alleluia, is a song of joy for the Risen Christ, which we will take up again at the Easter Vigil. My coffees can be somewhat like the absence of the Alleluia during Lent. One of my favourite breakfasts is the pancakes at Lawley's café or Mille café. Though I tend not to have them during Lent as I save them for other times of the year, such as during the Easter Season. The pancakes usually come dripping in maple syrup, and have a choice of berries along with cream, mascarpone or ice cream. That is all a bit too much for Lent, and the same can be with our music.

The documents of the liturgy still tell us, that the organ (or other accompanying instruments) are to be used to support singing during Lent and not be used for solo pieces. That can be difficult in our parish settings today, especially if there is no cantor or choir to lead the singing. So I would suggest, "toning the volume of the organ down" during Lent if you need to use it to play a solo piece. One way to differentiate the music program during Lent, is to not have a hymn or instrumental music for the Recessional. The ministers of the liturgy should depart in silence. Some people have told me, that they do not have an entrance hymn instead, but they have music at the end of Mass. I think that is not the best idea! It is completely ineffective to not have an entrance hymn. Firstly, each mass has its own Entrance Antiphon which can be sung or recited. Of course, the Entrance Antiphon can be replaced by a hymn. There is no

recessional chant however in the Mass. The only exception to this is funerals. The Mass has its ebbs and flows, and its high and lows. Given that we normally go out on a high, it is more effective during the Season of Lent, to go out on a low and have no music for the recessional, but instead have music for the Entrance procession.

I'm going to have my "Lent coffee" without pancakes. Enjoy your coffee too!

To be continued...

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