

A Coffee with Alessio



Preparing music for Holy Week and Easter

We are fortunate that Lent began a bit later this year, and so hopefully musicians in parishes have had the opportunity to get settled into the year, before beginning Holy Week music preparations.

We facilitated a very successful Holy Week music workshop at Notre Dame Church, Cloverdale on Saturday 18 February. Most of the people who attended were from one of the music in groups in that parish. However, it was good to see people from other parishes attend as well. Unfortunately, we ran out of time to get through all the material. If we run this workshop next year, we need two sessions or a longer workshop session (if we only run one session).

Everyone participated enthusiastically and was engaged throughout the workshop. Most importantly, I think the reason it was successful, is we had the support of the Parish Priest. He joined in and led some of the music in the workshop (the Presidential Chants for Holy Week). His presence was not only support to those of us from the Centre for Liturgy, but also to his parish musicians. A leader cannot ask of others what he/ she is not prepared to do. So thank you Fr Quynh for your presence and support- greatly appreciated! The workshop was definitely an example of how we at the Centre for Liturgy can work with various parish music groups and their parish priest. The social committee from parish put on a delicious spread afterwards for which we are all grateful too.

At each workshop we present now, we have a feedback form. There was so much positive feedback (from this workshop) which left us

with a big smile on our dial. However, there were three constructive suggestions:

- when teaching a new song have the leader sing through a verse and refrain first before teaching the song by call and response
- participants would like access to the published music
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- for the feedback form to be given out at the beginning of the workshop.

Two weekends ago we facilitated a workshop on music for the Sacraments and we tried out these three suggestions. So, in next week's column I will let you know how this trial went.

Enjoy your coffee and maybe get together with your fellow musicians to organise what you are going to sing during Holy Week.

Alessio Loiacono
Friday 10 March 2017