

## *A Coffee with Alessio*



### **Copyright- What's the big deal?**

Copyright is one of those issues that seems to intimidate people, mainly I think because people try to do the right thing, but sometimes misunderstand how to comply with the law in terms of copyright.

I would need several columns to explore the whole issue of copyright, and that may be something for another time. Basically, though, you cannot reproduce the text or music (melody and/ or accompaniment/ instrument parts/ choir parts), without either the permission of the composer, publisher (copyright holder) or having a license, unless it is in the public domain. That is, the person who wrote the text and/ or music died at least seventy years ago.

Most of us would be familiar with Word of Life International (WoL). On 1 July this year that entity ceased to exist as it was bought by One License (which is a company jointly owned by GIA and OCP). All of this information came to hand almost at the eleventh hour, and so we at the Centre for Liturgy have been “hitting the deck running” to get the information out to parishes. There are certainly differences between this new scheme and Word of Life. One being that under the old WoL scheme you could reproduce accompaniments parts and choir parts from certain publishers. That will no longer be the case under One License. This scheme is purely

for reproducing congregational music, streaming liturgies or creating practice tracks.

We will be running four workshops on this topic, and if need more we can do so. On Monday 10 July, we had a very successful workshop here at the Centre for Liturgy with 25 people attending. All who attended were engaged and had a lot of 'good' questions to ask. We also trialed something new on Monday night, in that we skyped the workshop to a pilot audience. We hope to Skype workshops to people in our country parishes from now on, including one of these copyright workshops.

We at the Centre for Liturgy could have just sent people to the One License website and said work it out for yourselves. We don't like doing that to people. We prefer where possible to explain things face to face- or what I call "good old-fashioned customer service." On Saturday 15 July, we will be having another workshop at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. We will let you know how it goes.

What we hope to do later in the year is have a follow-up workshop to see how people have gone with the changeover. I'm sure there will be some teething problems. Also as people use the One License website and become more familiar with it, they will have questions to ask.

So, when you go out for coffee this week, talk to your fellow musicians about these changes. Include your parish priest as well. He needs to know the implications of these changes to you and your parish as well.

Enjoy your coffee!

Mr Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

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