

A Coffee with Alessio



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

After our rejoicing Sunday last week, we are back to purple this week (ever so briefly, as Monday is Christmas Day) as we continue to focus on the coming of the Lord on Christmas Day.

In last week's column, I mentioned how the school year had drawn to a close. I always spend some time at the end of the school year thinking about all the wonderful things that have happened (throughout the year), how I have 'grown' professionally and personally, and on those things that didn't quite work out for various reasons. Hopefully, there will be another chance next year to improve on those things.

I know you are probably thinking what has the end of the school year got to do with parish musicians. Well *a lot* actually! Most parishes go into shut down mode after Christmas. (Just as an aside to that, you can keep singing Christmas Carols till the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.) January is really the only "holiday" month in Australia. So, sometime after Christmas, if you haven't done so already, I would suggest getting together with your fellow musicians and making a list of the pieces of music and liturgical celebrations that worked 'like a treat', and those that didn't. There is no problem when things don't work out. You will have left nothing on the table, by trying out a piece of music with your congregation!

At the Centre for Liturgy, we have had a very productive and busy year. The OneLicense copyright program took us all by surprise. Whilst we are learning on the go here as well, we hope that the workshops we provided were helpful to people in making the transition. We will have a follow-up workshop sometime next year.

Today's column is the last column for the year. It will resume on Friday 2 February 2018. I hope that the music you provide for the Christmas Masses in your parish will draw people closer God.

Wishing you a very happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for 2018. I hope that you will be able to take some time to rest after your hard work of the festivities we celebrate. Hopefully, you will be able to try out some good cafes during the break.

Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

Friday 22 December 2017