

A Coffee with Alessio



The Second Sunday of Lent

This Sunday in the Gospel reading we hear the transfiguration story of Jesus. As always, the Apostles didn't quite get the full picture of what was happening at that moment. They were excited and overjoyed to be there, but they were also confused because Jesus told them not to tell anyone about this event, until after he had risen from the dead. Peter, James and John of course didn't know what Jesus meant by 'risen from the dead'. For although they saw him in his glory here on earth at the top of a mountain, he was also pointing to his heavenly glory. (Sourcebook 2018). We too, forget that Jesus was human and divine.

So, what has all of that business of the transfiguration got to do with us as liturgical musicians! Well, we have all had those moments either at a rehearsal and hopefully more often than not in our liturgies, where everything has gone perfectly, and we are 'on top of the world'. We would like to capture that moment and hold onto it forever. We know that we've worked really hard to climb that mountain. We also know that we need to get to work on the next challenge awaiting us.

The music that we do, can be hard work at times, but it is also a rewarding experience. Hopefully, just as the disciples learned something about Jesus at the Transfiguration, we too, are always learning new things (in our liturgical music) and improving as each week goes by.

There are many hymns which are suitable for the liturgy this Sunday. As you know, I always say it's a good idea to balance the familiar with the unknown, as well as contemporary and traditional. This Sunday is a good opportunity to sing that wonderful Irish hymn- *Be Thou My*

Vision. Some hymns are appropriate anytime of the year and that is one of them. For just as Peter, James and John caught a glimpse of Jesus, with an element of his earthly and heavenly vision, so too, Christ must be our 'vision' and we must see Him in all that we do, pray and sing!

I hope you enjoy your coffee this week!

Alessio Loiacono
Friday 23 February 2018