

# *A Coffee with Alessio*



## **Laetare Sunday- The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

This Sunday marks the half-way point of Lent and is therefore called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word meaning rejoice. This Sunday is one of my favourite feasts in the liturgical calendar, because it's one of two times in the liturgical year when the priest wears rose vestments. Make sure you wear something with the colour rose to Mass this Sunday. On this Sunday, we can take a breather from our Lenten penance. We take a breather as we are rejoicing that the day of the Lord's Resurrection is near.

Now the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (para. 313) states: "In Lent the playing of the organ and musical instruments is allowed only to assist the singing. Exceptions are Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts." So, whilst the organ or the keyboard can shine forth slightly more this Sunday than has been the case during Lent, don't go too far, or there will be nowhere to go at the Easter Vigil.

Speaking of the Easter Vigil, I hope your musical preparations are going to plan. I will write more about Holy Week in my column the week after next. However, she nice I've written about the organ/keyboard and how either instrument can shine forth more this weekend, the Ministers of the Liturgy depart in silence on Holy Thursday, enter and depart in silence on Good Friday and enter in silence at the Easter Vigil. It may be appropriate to have the choir singing a piece of music before the Good Friday Liturgy, however there should be enough of a gap before the liturgy starts so as to distinguish the prelude from the start of the Good Friday Liturgy. Similarly, there should be no music prior to the Easter Vigil. Even as the people walk out to the fire there is no need for music. There should be total silence.

Now I know my column this week seems like a list of do's and don'ts. I hope it is taken rather as a 'few helpful hints', so as to accent the various aspects of the Liturgical year, through the use of liturgical music.

After Mass this Sunday treat yourself to a nice coffee and cake, as a way of rejoicing that Easter is near.

Happy *Laetare* Sunday!

Mr Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

Friday 9 March 2018