

## *A Coffee with Alessio*



### **The Octave of Easter**

It's a very short "working week" this week, and between that and the busyness of Holy Week last week, I thought I would make this week's column shorter than usual. I hope you have had a chance to catch your breath after the marathon known as Holy Week.

We have been celebrating Easter Sunday all this week and will continue to do up and until this Sunday. That's right we will celebrate this great feast as one feast over eight days. Smolarski defines an octave (in the liturgical sense) as: "the eight-day period during which a liturgical commemoration is celebrated. It consists of the day itself and the seven days following."

We have two octaves during the liturgical year- Christmas and Easter. Of course, the Easter Season continues up and until Pentecost Sunday. So, don't stop feasting yet, and keep the "Alleluias" going as well.

In the Gospel this Sunday, we hear the story of the Lord appearing to the disciples and he says: "Peace be with you." A few verses on, we hear the episode of the doubting Thomas. Peace and Faith are central to the Scripture readings this Sunday and therefore the hymn *We walk by faith* (music by Marty Haugen), so perfectly encapsulates the Gospel. It would also be wise this Sunday to stick to familiar Easter hymns. Musicians must be kind to themselves, so that they can experience the peace and joy of the Risen Christ as well.

On Monday next week, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation. This Solemnity has been transferred because the usual date (March 25) was Palm Sunday. Again, if you have music at Mass on Monday, choose hymns that suit the liturgy of the day, and that are also familiar to the congregation.

So, keep feasting, enjoy your coffee and cake as we continue to celebrate the Risen Christ!

Mr Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

Friday 6 April 2018

Reference:

Smolarski SJ, D.C. (2017). *A Glossary of Liturgical Terms*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications.