

A Coffee with Alessio



“They recognised Him in the breaking of Bread.”

At the beginning of the Gospel reading this Sunday, we hear the tail end of the Emmaus story. The Gospel begins:

“The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread” (Luke 24:35).

The Emmaus story is one of my favourite passages of Scripture in the Lectionary during the Easter Season, because it challenges us all. For those of us who are music ministers, we must try to “break the bread” and “open the Scriptures” for people. In other words, as best as possible, we must try to live out the meaning of the words that we sing (easier said than done I know!) We must also choose music that relates to the readings in our liturgies, so that our music will open up the Scriptures for the congregation. One of my favourite hymns about the Emmaus story is: “Two were bound for Emmaus”, by Bob Hurd. It is available at www.ocp.org. It is not a very difficult hymn. If you don’t know it, it’s too late for this year, but remember it for next year.

The first term of school finishes today. It has been a very busy term and with Holy Week a couple of weeks ago, that added to the momentum. By the time we get to October, we are looking forward to the summer break. That summer break flew by and is now a distant memory. Hopefully, the school holidays allow people an opportunity to experience the peace of Christ, that he refers to later in the Gospel reading we will hear this Sunday.

Speaking of holidays, an important holiday is coming up- ANZAC Day. This day has its own prayers and readings in the Missal. There are many hymn suggestions for this day in *Catholic Worship Book II*.

Mindful of my comment above about “Breaking the Bread” and “opening up the Scriptures”, I will finish with *The Choristers’ Prayer*. Its specific origins are unknown, and there have been several suggestions as to may have written it. It is available on the internet. I have taken it from the following site:

<http://www.spiritofsaintandrews.org.uk/prayer-for-those-coming-to-or-exploring-faith/the-choristers-prayer/>

It really doesn’t matter who wrote the prayer, but rather that we make it our own, by our words, actions, and our presentation of our liturgical music.

The Choristers’ Prayer

Bless, O Lord, us your servants
who minister in your house.
Grant that what we sing with our lips,
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts,
we may show forth in our lives.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Enjoy your coffee!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

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