

## *A Coffee with Alessio*



### **It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas**

The school year is slowly drawing to a close. Today is the last day of Year 12 exams and other year levels are also in exam mode. Exams and assessments bring about a whole lot of marking and moderating, and then of course there is the art of report writing. School will officially close in just under a month, and yet there is still so much to do. At this time of year there isn't much slack to be cut when it comes to meeting deadlines. Just as the school year is slowly drawing to a close, so too is the liturgical year. Next Sunday will be the last Sunday of the liturgical year- the Solemnity of the Christ the King. The liturgical year will officially end the following Saturday 1 December. We will begin a new liturgical year with the Season of Advent on Sunday 2 December and will be following the Year C cycle of readings for the Sunday liturgy and Year 1 for the weekday readings.

As the title of this week's column suggests "it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas". The stores have been selling decorations for some time, Christmas cards are out, and the shopping malls have also put out their own decorations, not to mention the Christmas sale catalogues that have been filling our letter boxes for the past few weeks. We have that wonderful season to prepare for Christmas known as Advent. It really is a shame that our retailers have commercialised Christmas and that they don't understand that the Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve and goes till the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord- Sunday January 13 next year. So, our Christmas music should be going for three weeks.

In the meantime, we will prepare for Christmas with the season of Advent. So, with Advent coming what sort of music should we use? I would like to draw your attention to the Marist music website where Michael Herry's music is published and available for download. His music is accessible to the average congregation. You might look up his music for Advent at <http://www.maristmusic.org.au/new-album/>. Time is limited at this stage of the year, so what you might like to do is choose one of his two general advent hymns and use one of them at the end of Mass on each of the four Sundays. I will give further suggestions of Advent music in the coming weeks.

If you are looking for a different Gospel Acclamation for the season of Advent- CWBII #42 is perfect! The melody of the refrain is based on the great Advent hymn 'O Come, O come Emmanuel.' This setting also has the verses for each of the four Sundays of Advent- everything is done for you.

Whilst we are busy with all that this time of year brings, let's make sure we take some time to prepare our Advent liturgies well. Whilst we're at it, make sure we have a nice coffee and cake to give us some breathing space.

Till next week, enjoy your coffee!

Mr Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer

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