



# The Musician's Monthly

Volume 1- Issue 3: April 2019

## INTRODUCTION

We are now halfway through the Season of Lent. We are on the homestretch to Holy Week and Easter Sunday. By now, musicians will be well and truly into preparing for Holy Week.

For those communities following the Year C Lectionary, the Response to the Psalm for the Fifth Sunday of Lent is:

“The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.”

Indeed, the Lord has done great things for all of us. We must take the time to remember that. As liturgical ministers we are gearing up for the busiest time of the year. However, after Holy Week is finished, we need to do something nice for ourselves, and take the time to reflect upon the blessings we have received from the Lord and be filled with joy. Liturgical musicians are a wonderful gift to their communities and a blessing from the Lord.

As we lead into Holy Week, the liturgy becomes more sombre as we reflect upon the greatest gift that the Lord gave us- the gift of His Son who died on the Cross for our salvation.

I hope and pray Holy Week will be a fruitful time for you and that the upcoming Easter Season is filled with every blessing for you from the Risen Lord!

Alessio Loiacono  
Music Field Officer- Centre for Liturgy

## PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

April is the month of the Holy Eucharist. How appropriate since it is the Risen Lord we receive during Holy Communion, and we will soon be celebrating the Easter Season. The Liturgy of Holy Thursday is full of drama. The most radical aspect of Holy Thursday is the institution of the Holy Eucharist. So many people didn't understand what Jesus meant when he said "I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to me will never be hungry" (John 6:35).

Let our prayer during April be:

Dear Jesus,  
May the work we do as liturgical musicians  
help us and those who worship You with us.  
May our reception of your Holy Body and Precious Blood  
strengthen and nourish us to be Your witnesses in the world.

Amen.



## HYMN SUGGESTIONS FOR THE COMING EASTER SEASON

As already mentioned, the music preparation for Holy Week is an enormous task. So, my only suggestion for this month is using the first chant Memorial Acclamation for the entire Easter Season:

“We proclaim Your death, O Lord...”

The melody of the chant setting (which is in *The Roman Missal*) is very simple and will not take long for members of the gathered assembly to pick it up.

If you don't have the music you can access it on the ICEL website:

<http://icelweb.org/musicfolder/openpdf.php?file=MemorialAcclamation.pdf>



## NEWS

The column *A Coffee with Alessio* continues to be published on our website as well as the Centre for Liturgy Facebook page.

Our next music workshop will be held on Thursday 16 May at Saint Joseph Pignatelli Church, Attadale. In the workshop we will be exploring music for small choirs. For more information and to register, please follow this link to our website

<http://liturgy.perthcatholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/4-MUSIC-FOR-SMALL-CHOIRS-2019.pdf>

We will be exploring resources for small choirs during this workshop.

### **New Psalmists Attend Training Course**

Eighteen people from six parishes participated in the Psalmist Training Course organised by the South East Metropolitan Musicians Network Committee and the Archdiocesan Centre for Liturgy over February and March at Saint Francis Xavier Church in the Armadale Parish. The course was facilitated by the Centre's Music Consultant, Chris deSilva who was assisted by the Centre's Music Field Officer, Alessio Loiacono. They were supported by Frank Waring, Deirdre Wright and Suzanne and Stewart Bazzica.

During the four sessions participants learned about the place of the Responsorial Psalm in the liturgy, the various types of Psalms and practised the basics of voice production. Each participant learned a Psalm and presented it during the final session. Prospective psalmists were presented certificates of participation at the end of the course. Participants will exercise the ministry of the Psalmist in their respective parishes.

The Centre for Liturgy will run another Psalmist Training Course in Nollamara in June this year. For further information please contact the Centre on 9207 3350 during business hours.



Chris deSilva leads the participants in a Psalm.

## NEW MUSIC

Our office received notification from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, that Br Michael Herry FMS, has composed a hymn of healing in response to the sexual abuse crisis that the Church is experiencing. Hopefully, we are familiar with Br Michael's music. If you do not use his music, please visit the Marist music website (<http://www.maristmusic.org.au>) and have a listen to some of his music. It is very easy and accessible.

As Br Michael suggests on his website:

"How this hymn could be used obviously requires much pastoral thought and sensitivity."

The hymn is called "A Hymn of Healing for the Church" and you can view the sheet music and listen to the hymn by following this link:

<http://www.maristmusic.org.au/new-albuma-hymn-of-healing-for-the-church>

## REFLECTION

Following on from last month, I am looking at the ninth paragraph of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

"The sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church. Before men can come to the liturgy they must be called to faith and to conversion: "How then are they to call upon him in whom they have not yet believed? But how are they to believe him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear if no one preaches? And how are men to preach unless they be sent?" (Rom. 10:14-15).

### **What does the preceding paragraph from *Sacrosanctum Concilium* mean?**

As liturgical musicians, we must really believe in the words we are singing. Sometimes, the texts we are singing can be very challenging. Other times the texts may not be easy for us to understand. If we don't believe in what we are singing, then we are really wasting our time and that of those worshipping with us. The above quotation speaks about preaching. Yes, whilst we don't preach the homily in the liturgy, we do so in another way. Our work as music ministers is our homily and the Lord has sent us into our faith communities to preach His Word through liturgical music. Let us not underestimate the power of the preaching we do with music.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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