



The Musician's Monthly

Volume 1- Issue 6: July 2019

INTRODUCTION

We are half-way through the year and we have just finished the Lenten-Easter cycle in our liturgical calendar. The three Sundays that were Solemnities (Pentecost, Trinity and Corpus Christi) are now over and now both the Sunday cycle and weekday cycle are now back in Ordinary Time. You will notice the headings in this newsletter are in a light green. We'll work our way up to a dark green over the next few months as we move through Ordinary Time. School holidays will also be upon us, so for the rest of July it's probably a good idea to stick to known repertoire, because many regular parishioners may go away and you may also have a number of visitors to your parish communities. The Lenten-Easter cycle requires a lot of time effort, work and preparation, so it's okay to cut ourselves some slack as musicians over the next few weeks. Also, now that we are in the thick of winter, cold and flu season goes through places with a vengeance. There are so many factors that liturgical musicians need to take into consideration, not just the liturgical ones, but non-liturgical ones as well.

So, as we come to the middle of the year, and catch our breath after the Lent and Easter Seasons and the many feast days that form part of that of that cycle, let's take stock of where we are and look at how for the next couple of weeks we can consolidate our repertoire and our energy so that when school goes back towards the end of July, our batteries are recharged and ready to go for the second half of the year.

By the time this newsletter goes to print, the Psalmist Training Course held at the Centre for Liturgy will be completed. I'll write something about that course in the August Newsletter. The Music Reading Course will have also started, and again I will write about that in the August Newsletter.

God bless,

Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer- Centre for Liturgy

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

July is the month of the Precious Blood of Jesus.

A good prayer for us this month is the Communion Antiphon (cf. 1 Cor 10:16) from the Votive Mass of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Chalice of blessing that we bless
is a communion in the Blood of Christ;
and the bread that we break
is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.*

This text is taken from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. It serves as a reminder (to us as liturgical musicians) that all the music we prepare and provide in the liturgy should always be directed to the Lord, and that our work is a sharing in His Body which has been given for many.



HYMN SUGGESTIONS FOR USE DURING JULY

As I mentioned above, this is probably a time of the year to do a 'stocktake' sale on our liturgical music and repeat known music. I'll have more musical suggestions for the month of August.

If you are looking for something new to sing and wish to look ahead, you might try teaching your choir and congregation the *Holy, Holy, Holy* from the Community Mass by Richard Proulx (CWBII #66a). The *Lamb of God* is not in CWBII but is available from GIA Publications (www.giamusic.com). Both pieces listed above are tuneful and very easy for the congregation to catch on. Once the members of the congregation know both tunes well, you can 'dress-up' the music with harmony and descants. You will then have half a new Mass setting for the next couple of months of Sundays in Ordinary Time. The setting of the *Lamb of God* in this Mass, repeats the same melody three times for each invocation. Let the people become familiar with both parts of the Mass, before introducing the *Gloria* to them.

NEWS

As I mentioned in my Introduction, the Music Reading Course has already started.

Chris deSilva and I also went out to Kelmscott Parish to visit some of their musicians to talk about the 'hot topic' of copyright. It really isn't the most interesting of topics, but it is one that we need to look at once in a while and ask ourselves are we complying with the requirements or not? We know that copyright is not as easy as it looks, but hopefully our visit out to Kelmscott Parish helped address some of their concerns and needs. Speaking of copyright, the Centre for Liturgy will be hosting two workshops in September:

-Wednesday 4 September at the Centre for Liturgy

and

-Wednesday 18 September at Saint Joachim's Church, Victoria Park. **(Please note the change of date for this second workshop.)**

Looking ahead to the second half of the year we are going to be hosting a workshop on music for November, Advent and Christmas on Wednesday 7

August at Holy Name Church, Carlisle. The purpose of facilitating such a workshop well before that time of the year is to allow musicians to listen to the pieces of music we teach, go back to their parish communities and try them out with their various music ministers to see if such pieces will work in their communities. It also allows you as music ministers plenty of time to order copies of the choral and/or instrumental sheet music so that your people can learn the music and so that you can comply with copyright law.

For more information about these workshops and to register for them, please follow this link:

<http://liturgy.perthcatholic.org.au/liturgical-music-workshops/>

REFLECTION

Following on from the June Newsletter, this month I am looking at the second part of the tenth paragraph of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

"The liturgy in its turn moves the faithful, filled with "the paschal sacraments," to be "one in holiness"; it prays that "they may hold fast in their lives to what they have grasped by their faith"; the renewal in the Eucharist of the covenant between the Lord and man draws the faithful into the compelling love of Christ and sets them on fire. From the liturgy, therefore, and especially from the Eucharist, as from a font, grace is poured forth upon us; and the sanctification of men in Christ and the glorification of God, to which all other activities of the Church are directed as toward their end, is achieved in the most efficacious possible way."

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

The music and other liturgical actions (of the other liturgical ministries) should move people so much that their hearts are filled with joy for the Lord. They should be moved to proclaim the Good News of Christ in the world - as it says above people's hearts should be set on fire. We have all been to those Masses (liturgies) where the readers mumbled and/or had no idea what they were reading as they "proclaimed" the Scripture readings, or where every piece of music sounded the same. Those experiences do not set people on fire with faith. Sadly, the opposite happens. In fact, as it says in the document *Music in Catholic Worship* (para. 6)

“Good celebrations foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations may weaken and destroy it.” We must always keep this thought at the back of our minds when preparing liturgical music.

Most importantly, as it says above, everything we do in the liturgy should be for God’s glory (not our own). The Mass is not a performance. It should be distinctly different from all the other activities we undertake during the week.

ABBREVIATIONS, WEBSITE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CWBII- Catholic Worship Book II.

GIA- www.giamusic.com

United States Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy. *Music in Catholic Worship*. Accessed http://www.ccwatershed.org/media/pdfs/13/12/17/11-37-54_0.pdf 28 June 2019

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