

# Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group

6 April 2005

To all Parish Musicians

Dear Everyone

We hope that Easter was successful, and that you're enjoying the ongoing Easter Season liturgies.

## **PAST EVENTS**

We held a music day in Dumfries on Saturday 29 January. Unfortunately it wasn't that well attended, but those who could be present enjoyed it and found it a helpful day. In the morning, Fr Stephen Motroni facilitated a workshop on music and resources for Lent and Easter. We discovered that to successfully provide music for these liturgies, settings and choices need not be complex, and often more simple music is the most effective.

In the afternoon we enjoyed a talk on ecumenical developments in music, and this included looking through 'old' hymn books from the various denominations to see how much the repertoire overlapped! We ended with a Taizé service, which gave those of us not familiar with the Taizé Community's music an opportunity to experience some of their chants and meditative songs in a prayerful setting.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **Smithstone House, Kilwinning on Saturday 14 May**

We're planning a music day on Saturday 14 May in Kilwinning and publicity materials and a booking form are included. The morning will be a 'singalong' - trying out new material from Liturgical Hymns Old and New, themed to the year of the Eucharist. After lunch we'll be enjoying another talk from Fr Stephen Motroni, and at the end of the afternoon we will repeat the Taizé prayer service from January to introduce more of you to this style of worship.

### **Galloway Music Festival Mass on Sunday 14 August**

Our Open Air Mass will be on Sunday 14 August. We were looking to hold it in the south, but unfortunately we've had difficulty in finding a venue and have 'reverted' to Smithstone House. A full music list will be enclosed with the next newsletter.

## **OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST**

The RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) organise courses and workshops throughout the year across the UK. For more information, visit [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com). Their summer school and conference is being held from 8 - 14 August 2005 in York.

The Society of St Gregory's Music and Liturgy Summer School for 2005 is being held from 1 - 5 August at Sneaton Castle, Whitby, Yorkshire. The title is 'Go out to the whole world; Proclaim the Good News!', and the theme is mission and evangelisation. There will be a full programme of talks, workshops and liturgical celebrations - as well as opportunities for rest, recollection and socialising. There will be a wide variety of workshops, designed to promote understanding, and to develop skills and experiences to better enable participants to serve their parish community, whatever their particular ministry. The keynote speaker is Bishop Crispian Hollis, Bishop of Portsmouth. Bishop Hollis is a Patron of the Society and a great proponent of evangelisation and mission.

The National Network of Pastoral Musicians are organising a retreat at St Jospeh's Retreat and Conference Centre at Malpas in Cheshire from 26 - 28 August. It will be led by Fr Chris Jenkins SCJ. The cost is £115 (with a £10 discount for NNPM members). For more information contact Margaret Blaney on 0161 225 8910.

The Diocese of Argyll and the Isles are holding a pastoral music weekend from 15 - 17 April At Kinnoull, Perth. There may still be places available. (Please contact Nicola if you would like more information).

## **YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .**

### **Be still my soul**

- 1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change, He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

- 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future, as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
His voice Who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- 3 Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,  
Then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,  
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.  
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay  
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- 4 Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord.  
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.
- 5 Be still, my soul: begin the song of praise  
On earth, be leaving, to Thy Lord on high;  
Acknowledge Him in all thy words and ways,  
So shall He view thee with a well pleased eye.  
Be still, my soul: the Sun of life divine  
Through passing clouds shall but more brightly shine.

Verses 1, 2 and 4 appear in Liturgical Hymns Old and New at number 166 (although there are slight variations in the words). The hymn was written in German by Katharina A von Schlegel, and translated to English by Jane L Borthwick (who was a committed member of the Free Church of Scotland, and with her sister, produced 'Hymns from the Land of Luther'). It is usually sung to 'Finlandia', from Jean Sibelius's Symphonic Poem entitled Finlandia (1899).

Verse 3 (unfortunately not in Liturgical Hymns Old and New) is very fitting for funerals,

but even without this verse this is an appropriate hymn for times of bereavement. Verse 5 does not appear in most standard hymn books.

The hymn is reputed to have been a favourite of the Scottish athlete Eric Liddell, of 'Chariots of Fire' fame. Liddell later became a missionary in China, and was imprisoned during the second world war. He is said to have taught this hymn to others in the prison camp (where he died of a brain tumour).

## **REVIEWS**

**[www.cyberhymnal.org](http://www.cyberhymnal.org)**

This is a web site providing the words and (a rather unexciting) musical rendition of a vast number of hymns. Background information about the author and composer is also provided. If the hymn is regularly sung to more than one tune, you can listen to all the options! The site isn't perhaps the easiest to find your

way round, and some modern hymns are not included because of copyright (for example the words of 'How great thou art' only appear in Swedish). However, a lot of fun can be had (and if you're not careful a lot of time be spent) exploring the site.

## **THE CORE GROUP . . . SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING MUSIC . . .**

As ever, we welcome any suggestions for what the core group should be doing, and ways in which we can support and promote music.

If you know of other people who would like a copy of this newsletter, please copy it for them - or direct them to the web site to read it ([www.gallowaymusic.net](http://www.gallowaymusic.net)). Please also show newsletters to your Parish Priest so that he is aware of our activities.

If you are receiving this newsletter, and you are no longer involved in music in your parish, please will you let Nicola know so that the mailing list can be updated.

With best wishes

The Music Core Group

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