

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group

7 June 2005

To all Parish Musicians

Dear Everyone

We're sending this newsletter to reach you before the schools break up for the summer, and are providing information about the Galloway Music Festival Mass.

PAST EVENTS

Smithstone House, Kilwinning on Saturday 14 May

In the morning we enjoyed a 'singalong' - trying out new material from Liturgical Hymns Old and New. The hymns chosen were supposed to be themed to the year of the Eucharist, but we found ourselves easily side tracked! We were all making suggestions, and everyone learnt some new music. There was something for everyone, and we all discovered things we liked.

After lunch, Fr Stephen Motroni led us with reflections on Pentecost. This involved everyone going out in to the garden (and it was a gorgeous sunny day) and bringing back something that reminded them of new life, to share with the group.

We ended the day 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.

Our thanks are due once again to all at Smithstone House who helped make the day a success.

FUTURE EVENTS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Galloway Music Festival Mass

This will be on Sunday 14 August at 2.30 pm at Smithstone House in Kilwinning. Booking forms, and a bulletin notice are enclosed. This will be our sixth open air Mass.

We hope to see as many people as possible present. If you are able to, bring a musical instrument, or simply come along and sing. Some chairs will be available, otherwise bring a rug to sit on. It is not essential to book, but if you did it would help to give us an approximate idea of the numbers who will be attending. However, if you need a power point for a musical instrument, please telephone Nicola on (01465) 714797 and we will do our best to arrange it for you.

A list of the music planned is also enclosed to give everyone the opportunity to practice and to know what music to bring on the day. If you can't find or aren't sure about anything, please telephone and we will try and help sort it out! We will be rehearsing from 1 pm (the Mass starts at 2.30 pm) so that everyone who can be there then will have had the opportunity to try out the music beforehand.

Please invite your Parish Priest to concelebrate the Mass. Bring a picnic for after!

Workshop on Saturday 17 September

We are planning another workshop in St Teresa's, Dumfries on Saturday 17 September. This will be similar in format to the day held in Kilwinning last September, and will again be led by Fr Michael Hutson from Lochgilphead (and originally from Cumnock).

More information about this will be included in our next newsletter in August.

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. 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 Joseph'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.

YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .

Make me a channel of your peace

The words of this hymn are in copyright, and so can't be reproduced here, but we are all familiar with it and it is included in most Catholic hymn books.

The works are by Sebastian Temple and are based on a prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi (1182 - 1226). St Francis was the son of a rich cloth merchant in Assisi. When seriously ill, he began to feel that God was calling him to something new in life, and soon he quite literally gave all his money and even his clothes away to beggars. He discovered through experience the hardships and joys of being poor, and drew up a simple rule of life. He was disowned by his family.

The hymn was included in the funeral service of Diana, Princess of Wales.

REVIEWS

'The Theology of Joseph Ratzinger - An Introductory Study' by Aidan Nichols OP

On the back cover this book is described as 'timely'. In fact it was published in 1988 and a copy obtained, by chance, from a bookshop specialising in overstocks, shortly after Cardinal Ratzinger was elected Pope.

In a chapter entitled 'The Liturgist', there is a brief section on liturgy and music. Apparently a recurrent aspect of Ratzinger's liturgical interests - perhaps connected with the fact that his brother Georg is (or was) the cathedral choirmaster at Regensburg - is the Church's music. The pages that follow do not make light reading, but their conclusion is that Ratzinger hopes that, in combining appeal to the Church's traditional musical inheritance with the best of popular music, a new renaissance of *Musica sacra* might be possible.

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). 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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www.gallowaymusic.net

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