

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group

8 September

To all Parish Musicians

Dear Everyone

The publicity materials for our next music ministry day are enclosed with this newsletter, together with a questionnaire about music for weddings and funerals.

But let's start with the Music Festival Mass - you may have seen our write up in the Scottish Catholic Observer !

PAST EVENTS

Our fourth open air Mass was held at Smithstone House on Sunday 17 August.

The Principal Celebrant was Bishop Taylor, and Father Stephen Motroni and Father Stephen McGrattan concelebrated. We were delighted to have a large music group of several violins, viola, recorders, trumpets, trombone, guitars and keyboard - there were about 15 - 20 musicians altogether (including some local children) and a further 50 or so people attending. The bagpipes also made appearances! Given the variety of instruments, the music was lively and enthusiastic.

Local parishes helped by providing readers, leading the bidding prayers, taking the collection and serving as Eucharistic ministers.

We started off outside . . . but . . . unfortunately the 'gentle rain from heaven' became a little heavier and so we were forced inside at the end of the Liturgy of the Word. However, everyone managed to squeeze into Smithstone House, the Mass continued, and we went home refreshed and uplifted.

FUTURE EVENTS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Workshop on Saturday 25 October

We are planning a music day in Kilwinning on Saturday 25 October at Smithstone House in Kilwinning. Paul Wellicome of the Society of Saint Gregory has confirmed that he will be able to lead this, and he will be covering music for Advent and the Christmas season. One of the challenges of Advent is to be able to wait in joyful hope without 'anticipating' Christmas. At Christmas, it's easy to become 'stale' and include the same carols year after year - how can we introduce new material but without offending those who wish for the more traditional 'Silent night' and 'Away in a manger'? Booking forms, bulletin notices and posters are enclosed.

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

RSCM Scotland will be holding a **Triennial Festival** on the afternoon of Saturday 20 September. The venue is Paisley Abbey, which is a wonderful medieval building with excellent musical resources, as well as a magnificently restored choir and spectacular twentieth century stained glass, wood and carved stone. Dr George McPhee, Director of Music at the Abbey, will be leading the event. If you would like more information, contact Martin Ritchie on 0141 649 4070.

Songs of the early church is being held at Edinburgh University Chaplaincy from 2 - 4.30 pm on Saturday 11 October. This will be a gathering of singers, musicians and those involved in choosing music for worship. The aim of the meeting is to create a truly useful and easily accessible database of settings of psalms, canticles and scriptural 'hymns'. The first ten psalms, some settings of the Benedictus and 'Ours were the griefs he bore' will be 'explored' together. The range will be from elaborate choir settings to simple chants and metrical versions for congregational singing. What is in use? On what occasions? What further music is available for use? Where is it to be found? Please contact Eileen Stewart for further information (17 Glen Crescent, Peebles, EH45 9BS or espeebles@beeb.net).

The **Archdiocese of Glasgow Music Committee** are planning a music for the liturgy workshop in October, but we don't have a date as yet. For more information contact Mary Bradley at St Leo's, 5 Beech Avenue, Glasgow, G41 5BY or telephone on 0141 427 0293.

The **Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh Liturgy Commission** are holding an 'organ day' at the Laetare Centre and St Michael's, Blackness Road, Linlithgow on Saturday 25 October, commencing at 9.45 am for 10.15 am. This is 'for ORGANISTS at all levels - and PIANISTS thinking about it!' The event will be led by Robin Bell, BMus, ARCO, Organ tutor at St Andrews University and SCOTS Administrator. Workshop tutors will include Neil Beynon (Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh) and Dr Evelyn Stell (Organist at Linlithgow and SCOTS Catholic representative). Topics to be covered are accompanying hymns and Mass music, improvisation, keyboard harmony and relating all these skills to your own situation. The day will finish with Evening Prayer of the Church, conducted by Fr Michael B Regan, Vicar-Episcopal for Liturgy in the Archdiocese. Unfortunately this date clashes with our own music day, but if you are interested contact Evelyn Stell on 01506 510366, e-mail evelynstell@scotsorgan.org.

The **Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh Liturgy Commission** are also holding a 'sing and socialise' afternoon on Sunday 12 October at St Mary's, Upper Bridge Street, Stirling, from 2.30 pm until approx 5 pm. Again, contact Evelyn Stell for more information.

The 4th **National Network of Pastoral Musicians Festival for Choirs** is being held at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill (near Twickhenham) on 15 November 2003. Every two years this event is held with the aim of assembling singers from all parts to give encouragement, a sense of purpose, and the simple enjoyment of singing together. You don't have to be a choir member - individual singers and small groups are very welcome. For more information contact Stephen Dean, Oak House, 70 High Street, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0AU, tel 01842 815372 or e-mail stephendean@decanimusic.co.uk.

YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .

We said we'd feature a different hymn with each newsletter, and in this edition, we'll look at **Lead, kindly light**

- 1 Lead kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
 Lead thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home;
 Lead thou me on.
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene, - one step enough for me.
- 2 I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
 Shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path, but now
 Lead thou me on;
I loved the garish day, and spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.
- 3 So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still
 Will lead me on,
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
 The night is gone,
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

The words were written by John Henry Newman (1801 - 1890) whilst 'at sea' on 16 June 1833, somewhere in the Mediterranean. He was homesick, and on a journey home from Sicily and during the journey fell very ill of a fever - it is not certain whether the hymn was written before or after his illness.

The hymn could be considered as a prayer for God's guidance, with the words 'lead thou me on' appearing several times. Alternatively, it has been suggested that 'kindly light' means the light of conscience (kindly being used in the Elizabethan sense of 'implanted, innate').

Newman entered the Church of Rome in 1848, and was made a Cardinal in 1879.

Well - as always there's a twist in the tale. Fr Stephen says that the 'angel faces' mentioned in the last verse are in fact memories from Newman's childhood of the 'spirits' that he would see at the bottom of the garden amongst the trees.

The hymn can be sung to various tunes. **Lux Benigna** by John Bacchus Dykes was composed specifically for it. Alternatively it is often sung to **Sandon** by Charles Henry Purday.

BOOK REVIEWS

We've been a bit lazy over the summer, but there will be more next time!

QUESTIONNAIRE

Again, to get more of a picture of what happens in the diocese, we are enclosing a questionnaire. This time it is about weddings and funerals, and how music is managed for these. Hopefully, as usual, it's straightforward, and shouldn't take more than five minutes to complete. Please will you return the forms by Friday 3 October, and we will let you know what we find out in the next newsletter!

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. At times it can be hard for us to know whether we are meeting your needs and aspirations or not.

Volunteers to lead workshops are always welcome!

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

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group
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