

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group

5 April 2004

To all Parish Musicians

Dear Everyone

We're not sure whether sending out a newsletter in the week before Easter is a good or a bad idea, probably an extremely busy time for everyone, but here's hoping you'll have time to read it once Easter is past!

PAST EVENTS

Saturday 20 March

A workshop was held at Smithstone House. The morning session was led by Bishop Taylor and Sister Dorothy McCaffrey SND (Religious Education Advisor - primary schools) on music for the combined celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist. Bishop Taylor explained the background to the celebrations and Sister Dorothy explained about the Alive O programme used in primary schools (and also the music contained within that). The Bishop then took us through a list of hymns that he had found to be appropriate and successful for use at the Sacraments. The morning ended with discussion on the points that had been raised, and this reflected the importance everyone felt about welcoming and involving the children and their families within the parish community. The respective roles of parish, parents and schools were recognised and affirmed.

After lunch, Fr Stephen Motroni led us with reflections on Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit. We were introduced to a new word 'pneumatology' - the theology of the Holy Spirit. We looked briefly at the symbols for the Holy Spirit - fire, wind, dove and water, and their significance. We considered the power of music and song to enhance faith; and that it is important for musicians to understand about the liturgy and celebrations they are taking part in if they are to lead the music.

To close the day, Michael McCulloch and Eleanor Glen Kelly introduced us to some new worship songs and choruses, which were easy to pick up and tuneful and enjoyable to sing.

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

St Teresa's Hall, Dumfries on Saturday 22 May

This will be a repeat of the workshop held in March at Smithstone House, so read all about it above, and make sure that you book your place! Publicity materials are included with this mailing.

And later in the year

This year's Galloway Music Festival Mass will be on Sunday 15 August at 2.30 pm at Smithstone House in Kilwinning. There will be the usual rehearsal beforehand. More about this, and the music selected, in the newsletter being sent out early in the summer.

We are planning another workshop in Kilwinning on Saturday 18 September. This will be led by Fr Michael Hutson from Lochgilphead (and originally from Cumnock). In the morning he will lead us in reflections on liturgy in general and what we should sing, and the day will end with a celebration of Mass.

Lastly, Ian White will perform some of his music and talk about his faith at a specially arranged concert at Smithstone House on Wednesday 6 October at 7 pm. Ian is a Christian singer with an international reputation and has made many recordings - this is an evening not to be missed.

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

The Society of St Gregory's 75th anniversary Music and Liturgy Summer School, 'Breaking Bread', will be held from 26 - 30 July at New Hall School, Chelmsford, Essex. The Eucharist will be at the heart of the summer school, and in the talks and workshops participants will reflect upon and respond to St Luke's account of the events on the road to Emmaus, as they prepare, once again, to recognise the Lord in the breaking of bread and to give thanks. For more information, telephone Mrs Helen Murphy on 01933 680955.

The 5th National Network of Pastoral Musicians' Conference takes place from 29 July - 1 August at Newman College, Birmingham, and is called United in Praise. Their advertising literature describes the Conference as a meeting between Europe and Africa - what can we offer each other? Experience African spirituality, music (and even food). There will be a fundraising concert, as in previous years, with the accent on involving young people. For more information contact Sue Dean on 0845 456 8392.

The Royal School of Church Music hold events and courses all over the UK. For more information visit the web site at www.rscm.com. Events being held in Scotland include the Dunblane Singing Break (19 - 22 July, directed by Gordon Appleton) and a Summer School in Edinburgh (from 2 - 8 August, directed by Alistair Warwick, an opportunity for clergy, musicians and others who lead worship to look afresh at the role of music).

The Wild Goose Resource Group are continuing their series of Holy city evenings (described as monthly 'city centre space for people who live in and puzzle over the world today'). These are held at 7 pm at Renfield St Stephen's Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow and forthcoming dates are 25 April (on 'The beauty myth') and 30 May ('Metropolitan God?'). For more information, telephone 0141 332 6343.

The Methodist Church Music Society (in association with the Royal School of Church Music) are organising a weekend conference, Worshipping Through Psalms, at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick Derbyshire from 22 - 24 October. Booking forms are available on the MCMS website, www.methodistmusic.org.

YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .

One of the most popular hymns for Good Friday is **When I survey the wondrous cross.**

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
 on which the Prince of Glory died,
 my richest gain I count but loss,
 and pour contempt on all my pride.

- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
 save in the death of Christ, my God:
 all the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to his blood.

- 3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,
 sorrow and love flow mingling down:
 did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
 or thorns compose so rich a crown?

- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 that were an off'ring far too small;
 love so amazing, do divine,
 demands my soul, my life, my all.

The words were written by Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748), as an exposition of Galatians 6 v 14 (where St Paul writes about never boasting except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to him, and him to the world). The reference to 'the whole realm of nature' reflects the language of the philosophical debates of the time.

The hymn as originally written had another verse (placed fourth), which is rarely published or sung.

His dying crimson like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then I am dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.

Traditionally this hymn is sung to the tune Rockingham, to which it was first set in 1833. (The tune was named after the Marquis of Rockingham). However, in Liturgical Hymns Old and New it is also presented to the tune O Waly Waly (a traditional English folk tune) and this is a very effective setting.

BOOK REVIEWS

Visions of liturgy and music for a new century by Lucien Deiss

It makes a change to read a book on music and liturgy that's not American in origin - this one is actually translated from French. Lucien Deiss was for ten years a professor of theology and Scripture at the Grand Scholasticat de Chevilly-Larue in France, and is a pioneer of the biblical and liturgical renewal. The book is not an easy read but is definitely worth the effort, and is perhaps best approached by reading a little at a time. It is divided into three parts - the ministerial function of music, the participants in liturgical song and the songs of the Mass.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we thought it would be a good idea to include a section sharing what is going on in our parishes. However, for this to be a success - we will need to hear from you - and no-one so far has contacted us! Please let us know your news!

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

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