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## From the Editor

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## From the Editor

Moving into the season of Lent could offer us consolation during this time of pandemic as well as deep uncertainty. This is said from a position of hope: hope that we survive this pandemic, hope that our communities will further develop strong ways to help each other, and hope in the resurrection, that we see evidence of the resurrection in all that we do. One of the aspects of uncertainty is the trust in God that is required of us as Christians. This can be a difficult proposition, but God is willing! How our liturgies continue in these difficult times is yet to be seen but hopefully the celebration of Easter in all its glory will not be denied to us.

We are now leading up to the second Assembly of the Plenary Council. The bishops have decided that this must be face to face and if we cannot meet in July as planned it will be postponed until we can meet in Sydney. The first Assembly was fruitful in many ways but very arduous work online for extended times. This all overlaps with the 2023 Synod too which will hopefully be possible as the pandemic becomes less critical. “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission” is the focus and parishes are asked to consider these questions. By the time this issue is available we hope that many will have made submissions. More things to hope for!

Music for Lent abounds in many collections but for this Lent I was looking for something special. OCP published the complete works of James Quinn SJ in 2017 so I worked through the Lenten selection. Quinn’s texts are very beautiful and I was keen to use “Christ’s Banner Guides Us on Christ’s Way”. It is set to the Gonfalon Royal melody, has 7 verses and would be liturgically useful but the issue is that it cannot be purchased as a music download. In our current copyright climate this is indeed a drawback as parishes wish to purchase material via download to be compliant and respect the composers and publishers.

Another collection that was published in 2015 is “We Contemplate the Mystery” by Michael Joncas. The texts are beautiful and deeply poetic and they are accompanied by commentaries on the Lectionary readings which is appreciated by music leadership groups choosing appropriate music. The melodies are a surprise because they are not the usual fare from Joncas but rather traditional melodies. For example, “The Crowds Who Cried Hosanna” is set to Passion Chorale. Very singable but unusual. Another example is “From Dust We Came, to Dust Return” set to the melody of Old Hundred Seventh. As a further twist, Scott Crandal has set it to his own original music which he describes as ‘giving musical wings to this expansive text’. There is a key change in the middle which lifts it out of predictability but is still very singable. For those parishes who do not use a hymnal but use a variety of works and purchase them as digital downloads this is very accessible.

<https://www.ocp.org/30146715>

<https://www.zealmusicpublishing.com/from-dust-we-came-to-dust-return>

Our first article in this issue reflects upon *Traditionis Custodes*. Mary-Anne Lumley is the liturgist for John XXIII College in Perth, Western Australia. The essential message of the latest *motu proprio* from Pope Francis is a limitation on the use of the Tridentine Mass and Lumley examines the issue with reference to other documents and various opinions. The real question is of unity within the liturgical practice of the Church and respect for the teachings of Vatican II.

Our second article is part 1 of a two-part contribution by a new academic, Samantha Wegner. This is an exceptionally well written and well documented position on the Vigil within the Order of Christian Funerals. Wegner completed this work in part fulfilment of the requirements for a Master of Theology Studies at the Australian Catholic University. Such a

detailed exposition on this aspect of Christian funerals fills a real need. It is extraordinary that the vigil is so rarely used in Catholic funeral culture. Mostly, people are invited to a recitation of the Rosary and yet the vigil offers many possibilities of rich intimacy within the time of preparation for the funeral Mass followed by the interment. My experience of recent funerals has been that the Mass is preceded by lengthy eulogies which are not within the Order of Christian Funerals and which in a recent case took over an hour so by the time the liturgy began people were preparing to leave. This is poor liturgical practice, and the vigil gives wonderful possibilities of many memories being shared in various ways. There is a sense that the funeral industry is taking over the liturgy. This excellent two-part article offers great insights.

Fr Tom Ryan SM offers another meditation, this time from Thomas Merton. This is pastorally useful material with questions following the reflection.

Two book reviews are included in this issue but from very different fields. The first is from Michelle Jones' book on Ruth Burrows. This book is very valuable as a source of spiritual material and can be read through or dipped into as required or desired. It is beautiful and challenging material from the Carmelite nun also known as Sr Rachel. The second review is of a book full of rich ideas and theologies from women about motherhood. The theologies that are developed from many different aspects of motherhood from many different authors abound in richness and contribute in a new and practical way to the theology and spirituality of parenthood.

Our liturgical resources once again provide you with material for the Sundays and feasts from Ash Wednesday until the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. One aspect that I have found fascinating and most worthwhile is Gerard Moore's commentaries on the Collects. The way in which he provides historical background and theological understanding of these much-neglected prayers has changed my understanding and appreciation. I now read the Collects with a different frame of mind. They are succinct and powerful.

May the coming Lent and Eastertide be rich and joyful for you all and may you remain safe and able to celebrate these beautiful seasons.

Peace to you all

Dr Angela McCarthy

