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From the Editor

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From the editor

Welcome to Ordinary Time!

During this time of the year, we will be celebrating the opening of the Second Vatican Council 60 years ago on 11 October 1962. This was, and remains, a momentous time for the Catholic Church, for all Christians and for people of faith. Among many other things, the Council opened the way of ecumenical life to flourish in the Church and also for interfaith dialogue to be valued. Our lead article therefore for this issue is about the Council. Fr David Barry is a monk in New Norcia (since 1957). He studied at San Anselmo in Rome in the heady days after the Council and has a deep understanding and commitment to the legacy of the Council. One of the things that must be kept in mind for the Plenary Council in Australia and the Synod of 2023 is that the changes wrought by a Council or Synod are not only the documents that have been written. The effect is much wider than that on the Catholic community and on the wider community of the world. In Australia that is obvious by the many webinars, conferences, gatherings and published works that surround the work of the Plenary Council. As a member of the PC I have had to be pragmatic in how much I read as there is so much available. Time is needed for prayer and reflection and so too much content is not helpful. It shows the high level of interest.

In this issue we introduce two new contributors to the introductions and reflections. Professor Mary Coloe is a Professor of New Testament within the University of Divinity. She is also a member of the Presentations Sisters of Victoria with many years of teaching in secondary schools and then at Australian Catholic University, before moving to the University of Divinity. She is a very well respected scriptural scholar and she will no doubt enrich our reflection on the Sunday readings.

Dr Debra Snoddy originates from Ireland and currently is a lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney teaching both Hebrew and Christian scriptures. She has a Doctorate in Sacred Theology as well as being a Doctor of Philosophy and has other degrees in Science and Theology. Debra's expertise is well respected and she too will enrich our reflections with her unique perspective. We are grateful to both Mary and Debra for joining our other wonderful contributors.

This issue holds the second part of a detailed account of the liturgical theology of the Christian Vigil from the Order of Christian Funerals. The first part, published in Volume 52 issue 2, explored the meaning of the Christian Vigil and its history. This is a valuable piece of research because the Christian Vigil is poorly understood in most Catholic parishes and is replaced by the rosary. Sometimes that is accompanied by other reflections, but the full value of the Christian Vigil is poorly enculturated into our Catholic community. Hopefully this research article will gain some traction and encourage more communities to engage with the full richness of the Order of Christian Funerals.

Once again Glenn Morrison has made available his poetic explorations into contemporary Christian experience. As we travel together through the Plenary Council process, the call to be more missionary in our outlook and our behaviour is getting louder and louder. During this Ordinary Time, the second assembly of the Plenary Council of Australia will take place in Sydney. Our prayers and support are vital for the fruitful conclusion to the process but let us keep in mind that the documents produced are not the only benefit of the Council. There are

many conversations and renewal activities abounding because of the process and they will continue to encourage, enliven and extend our missionary stance.

Tom Ryan sm has been writing a series of reflections on worthy contemplatives and this time he has presented us with ideas about St Thérèse of Lisieux. She was prophetic in her own prayerful direction and in the manner in which she lived and suffered. That prophetic stance is also challenging and that is good for us all. Tom provides questions that are useful in a community setting.

Music has been under the spotlight for the Editorial Board of Pastoral Liturgy. We have considered different ways in which to present the lists of appropriate music and delight in suggestions given so far. This time we have moved to a table layout and hope that it is easier and more efficient to follow. Keep in mind that the music selections are only the ones that are very relevant to the liturgy of the day and the focus of the readings. There are many other wonderful pieces of music to use as well and there are treasure troves for us to explore and now that publishers make it easy to buy digital downloads we can have variety and richness.

We will also bring to you various new collections and publications that will assist in your liturgical music selection. From GIA comes a very useful resource of all the psalms from the new edition of *Gather* that are now also fully downloadable. For those of you who are continuing to work to ensure that your music ministry is copyright compliant, this is a real gift as each psalm pdf is only \$US2.00.

<https://giamusic.com/store/resource/lectionary-psalms-print-g10600#>

GIA's efforts, and those of other major publishers like OCP, Willow in Australia and Wild Goose Publications in the UK are making it much easier for us all to be totally copyright compliant.

We include two music reviews of Mass settings in this issue. One is from an Australian composer, Phil Murray of Canberra, and the other is published by GIA and is from Lorraine Hess in New Orleans, USA. They are very different but useful in the parish domain. Music ministers and liturgy committees could be encouraged to have different Mass settings for different liturgical seasons. The change of setting is a way of making the seasons different and therefore increasing our alertness to the changes. In my own parish we change with each season using 'big' Mass settings for Eastertide and Christmastide but having simpler settings for Ordinary Time. We now have two settings for the bulk of Ordinary Time so that people do not get inured with the sameness of one setting, particularly since they are not as challenging.

Much prayer is needed as we continue the Plenary Council process and the journey of the Synod on Synodality. Let us pray for our whole Church that we may come closer to the full realisation of the vision of the Second Vatican Council that began 60 years ago.

Peace to you all

Dr Angela McCarthy