

YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW: SONGS FOR THE JOURNEY

(Australian Pastoral Musicians Network Conference October 1 – 3, 2015)

Over one hundred and seventy people gathered at St James College, Spring Hill, Brisbane for the bi-annual Australian Pastoral Musicians Network (APMN) conference – **Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: Songs for the Journey.**

Our days were inspired by keynote addresses from Marty Haugen (USA) – *Jesus, the face of God's Mercy: the Challenging Vision of the Jubilee Year* and *Laudato Si: Singing the canticle of creation with Francis*; Dr Mauve Heaney (Ireland) – *For such a time as this: A spirituality of Music*; and Rev Dr Richard Leonard (Australia) – *Music, mission and culture: how our song sends the assembly forth to live what we proclaim.*



Each of these keynotes asked the question how can we the leaders of music and song in liturgy, inspire and support those who come to worship? We were told that “music plays an indispensable role in gathering a community” and must be inclusive, hospitable and Catholic. It is an essential aspect of a spirituality grounded in Scripture and we must nurture the faithful on their journey of life.

These keynote speakers were well supported by workshop presenters of such high calibre as John Burland, Michael Mangan, Andrew Chin all who looked at music with the younger generation in mind and Steph Unger and MusicFire who helped explore music for Secondary students. Sr Ursula O'Rourke guided us through choosing appropriate music for the Prayer of the Church and Br Michael Herry shared his ever inspiring, yet simple compositions for Sunday liturgy.

We heard how to work with children's choirs and adult choirs, how to choose music for specific celebrations and rites – for example RCIA, and heard about our long awaited new hymnal Catholic Worship Book II and that dreaded word - Copyright

There were many more workshops – but unfortunately one could only attend a selection. It was a conference that all musicians, choir members, clergy, religious education teachers and those interested in Liturgical music should attend and I suggest you keep watch for the next conference in 2017 and make every effort to be there.

Dr Susan Crowe

An article of interest on Marty Haugen can be read here:

<http://catholicleader.com.au/news/no-rest-for-liturgical-composer-marty-haugen>