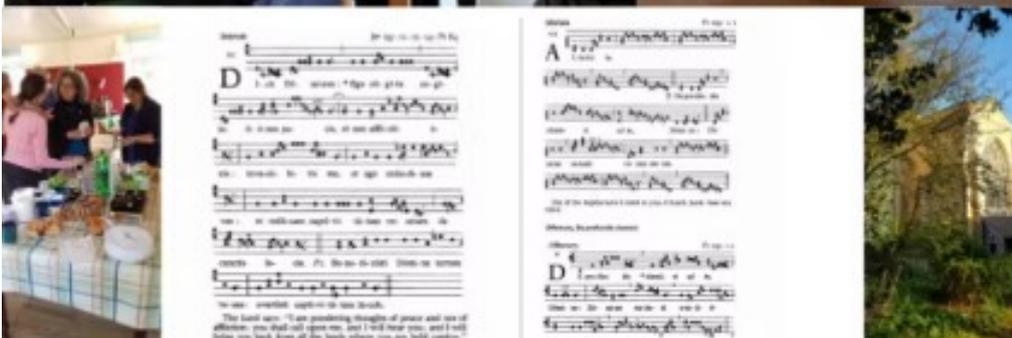


# Choir News - 2018

**Weekend Chant Workshop. Led by Phipp Duffy, Associate Director, Schola Gregoriana, and former Master of Music at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral: 17:18 November 2018**



The descriptions most used by participants after Sunday Mass at Ealing Abbey were 'uplifting', 'enjoyable', 'challenging', 'inspiring', 'opening our horizons' and 'privileged'. All agreed that Philip Duffy is a superb teacher who succeeds with gentle determination in producing a worthy performance from a choir eager to broadcast the message from the sacred texts clearly through the sublime music of the chant.

Philip began the workshop by taking the choir through the Kyrie 'Fons Bonitatis' and the Gloria from 'Rex Genitor', and through the Propers of the 33rd Sunday of the year. These are composed in a variety of Gregorian modes, which gave Philip an opportunity to demonstrate the scales and distinctiveness of the different modes. The choir, having had little experience of psalmody, sang in the afternoon through psalm 33 set to various tones, although finding the pointing in the style employed in the Liber Usualis somewhat challenging. Even more challenging, albeit highly enjoyable, was a foray into two songs composed by Hildegard of Bingen, and far easier, the measured rhythm of the 15th century Credo Cardinalis edited by Mary Berry, and of the sequence Veni, Sancte Spiritus as it might have been lustily sung at a Pentecost procession.

A musically action packed afternoon concluded with the beautiful troped Sarum version of the Salve Regina. Next morning Philip polished the choir's performance of the Sunday Mass before conducting what everyone felt was a commendable performance. Following the ancient tradition of sending cantors from Rome to teach the chant to those in the most distant provinces of the Holy Roman Empire, a great benefit from skilled teachers such as Philip is that their guidance will accrue as a permanent investment in the choir to be applied to all its repertoire in the future.

*Grey Macartney*

**Weekend visit to Quarr and St Cecilia's Abbeys, Isle of Wight, 5-7 October 2018**





Choir members had a most enjoyable and worthwhile training weekend at these two Abbeys on the Isle of Wight. At Quarr, Abbot Xavier helped us improve our singing together as a Choir, giving us not only the benefit of his long experience in singing chant but particularly his evident love of it as extolling the Word of God, manifest especially in his exquisite singing. At St Cecilia's Abbey, again we had not only the superb instruction on chant from Sr Bernadette, but the great privilege of hearing the full beauty of chant sung so sublimely by herself and the Sisters. The weekend at Quarr Abbey also gave us a chance to get together socially. We are especially grateful to Ann Kealy and Grey for organising the event, and to Paul for organising taxis and the excellent lunch at the Duck Restaurant. Our thanks also, as ever, to Fr Peter for accompanying and leading us.

## Latin Vespers - St Birinus, Dorchester-on-Thames: 30 June 2018

We were very grateful to Grey Macartney for organising the visit to St Birinus, Dorchester-on-Thames, where we sang Latin Vespers in memory of Mary Berry, who founded the Schola Gregoriana. It was a most uplifting and enjoyable experience.



*St Birinus, Dorchester-on-Thames*

## Farewell Party for Sr Mary Molloy on 27 June 2018



We were sveryad to say goodbye to Sr Mary Molloy as our much loved Membership Secretary at the end of June 2018 and are very grateful to Ann Kealy who has agreed to take over her role. We send Sr Mary our best wishes and prayers on her return to her Order's mother house in Drogheda.