



FROM HIS EMINENCE
WILLIAM CARDINAL CONWAY
ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH
PRIMATE OF ALL IRELAND

One of the most significant provisions of the Liturgy Constitution of Vatican II was that which allowed the introduction of vernacular hymns into the Sacred Liturgy.

The years since the Vatican Council have witnessed a remarkable growth in the use of hymns, especially in the liturgy of the Mass. Not all of these have had the solemnity and dignity, either in words or music, which is proper to this central act of Christian worship and at present we may be said to be in the middle of a winnowing process in which, hopefully, the wheat will be separated from the chaff.

The present hymnal is meant to assist this process. The absence of a hymnal of sufficiently wide range to meet the needs of the easily accessible most of the hymns in current use. The present hymnal fulfils that need. It contains 146 hymns in Irish and English, including both hymns hallowed by long usage in Ireland and many which have come to be known only in recent years. The selection has been arranged under separate headings, "Entrance hymns", "Communion hymns" and so on, but of course this is intended merely as a guide. Seán Ó Riada's hauntingly beautiful "Ag Críost an síol" is suitable not merely as an Offertory hymn but also, for example, as an Entrance hymn in Requiem Masses; "Holy God we praise thy name", while really a "Te Deum", is often used as an Entrance hymn.

It is the hope of the editor that a worthwhile programme of hymns will be established throughout the country as a result of the widespread use of this hymnal.

This collection has been assembled with the collaboration of The National Commission for Sacred Music and The Irish Church Music Association and to congratulations to the editor must be added thanks to these bodies for their invaluable help.

W. Conway

THE VERITAS HYMNAL

COMMISSIONED BY
THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SACRED MUSIC
AND APPROVED BY
THE IRISH CHURCH MUSIC ASSOCIATION



EDITED BY FR JERRY THREADGOLD
with a preface by
CARDINAL CONWAY
and an introduction by
PROFESSOR ANTHONY HUGHES

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INTRODUCTION

As a founder member of The Irish Church Music Association it is a very great pleasure to introduce a hymnal compiled and edited by a member of the present council. He will be ready to acknowledge the preparatory work carried out by members of the Hierarchy and The National Commission for Sacred Music, but the task undertaken by Father Threadgold demanded energy and initiative, knowledge and experience.

It has long been felt that there was a genuine need for a hymnal that would be suitable and practical for the needs of the Irish Church, one which would provide a basic repertory for all our schools and parishes. It was not intended that this hymnal would supplant individual parish publications or seek to limit congregations to its contents, but it is published with the object of ensuring that a worthwhile collection of hymns would be readily available in all parts of the country in a convenient and compact format.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The Table of Contents is designed as a practical guide to the selection of hymns for various occasions and is divided into groups for Mass, Special Occasions, Benediction and the Sacraments as follows:

Presentation of the gifts

Communion

Recessional

Entrance: Sundays of the Year, Advent, Christmas, Presentation, Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart, Precious Blood, Transfiguration, Christ the King, All Saints, All Souls, Mary, Patrick, Brigid.

Benediction

Baptism

Confirmation

Marriage

Requiem Masses

Where a hymn is suitable for more than one occasion and therefore appears more than once in the Table of Contents, the hymn number is repeated but its second appearance is printed in lighter type.

THE SELECTION OF HYMNS

Through consultation with the Communications Institute and the regional branches of the ICMA it was sought to establish what hymns people like to sing. Four main groups emerged:

- a. Traditional Gaelic hymns with texts in Irish
- b. Gaelic melodies with English words
- c. Standard traditional hymns
- d. Recent hymns which are likely to endure

TEXTS

In the past there has been confusion and criticism resulting from the way words have varied from one book to another. This edition attempts to provide versions acceptable to Christians in the modern post-conciliar world. It will be noted that in some cases words have been subjected to slight alterations to convey more directly the spiritual meaning. In a very few cases where the tune has been very popular but the customary words reflect period attitudes they have been completely rewritten. These new versions have won the approval of a number of choirs who have sung them and they merit careful consideration by clergy and laity.

We hope that this volume will be readily accepted by our schools and parishes and become the springboard for a great renewal of interest in singing at Mass, thus enabling people to participate more intimately in the mysteries of Salvation. I am confident that *The Veritas Hymnal* will prove its usefulness in the years to come and exhort all who benefit from it to support the work of The Irish Church Music Association.

Anthony Hughes,
The Irish Church Music Association.
May 1973.

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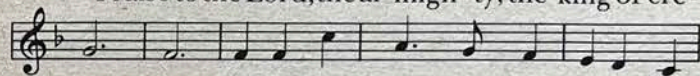
1 PRAISE TO THE LORD

Lobe den Herren

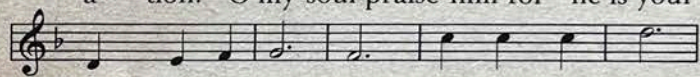
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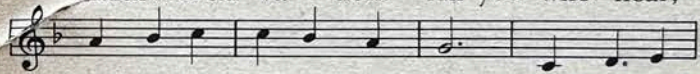
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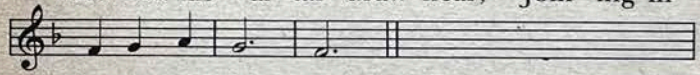
a - tion. O my soul praise him for he is your



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now to his al - tar draw near, Join - ing in



glad a - dor - a - tion.

2. Praise to the Lord, let us offer our gifts at his altar:
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Victims with him on the altar.
3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us:
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend us:
Ponder anew all the Almighty can do,
He who with love will befriend us.
4. Praise to the Lord, oh let all that is in us adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now in praises before him
Let the Amen sound from his people again,
Now as we worship before him.

J. Neander-C. Winkworth