

Invocatio
Tape (Prayer of
Gos: Lantais?)

LENT PREFACE

People have a great capacity for wanting to have what they haven't got, and undervaluing what they have — faraway hills and fields always look greener and more pleasant. Wealthy people, who have quite enough money and property to live comfortably, want more money & power; that they'd be just as happy without the 'extra' is a thought that never seems to strike home. Poorer people than they, envy and begrudge them, thinking that if only they had what rich people have, they too would be satisfied. Only someone who has experienced complete deprivation, in some way or other, really appreciates the value of what he now has and is happy in it. How often, in the normal busy round of life (itself perhaps, a busy-ness about getting more, or about ultimately unimportant things) do you count your blessings, take time to be grateful and appreciative of the good things which are yours already? Not material possessions only, but the more intangible values which make it possible for you to live humanly: your talents & abilities, your "good fortune", your friends and position? It's a cliché, maybe, to say that millionaires of other people don't have your freedom, your opportunities in life — but a ~~good~~ ^{warm} companion may be necessary to alert you to what you normally overlook. We get so used to situations and environment, so cosy in them (even when they may be harsh, in fact) that we can fail to see both the blessings that are already ours and the real flaws and weaknesses, the things that are lacking — what is not the same as what we might like to have. When you take a holiday, go away from your usual business, environment, home for a while, maybe you notice

more clearly some of the things you usually take for granted, or some things you lack.... like appreciating flat, open, countryside after being in HK for some time.

How to stand back from life for a while, to see and discover its quality for us? This is one of the possibilities of this season of Lent — a time to take time out, to retreat, make a pause, and experience the desert experience of God's people in the O.T., and of Christ Himself. Lent shd. be a time of prayer, and also of preparation for a fuller experience of the mystery of Easter we'll be celebrating in a few weeks' time. It's 40 days can't help but recall Israel's 40 yrs in the desert & our Lord's 40 days too. The desert was & is an uncompromising

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For a prayer in music today, a (Russian ^{trio}) triplet by

RS 276

51.64.

R4K SUP 191

Giovanni Gabrieli: O Domine, Iesu Christe, Lord Jesus Christ.

Audi Domine Hymnus

MUSIC: PRATELS.

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