

22.3.76

27.2.78 ✓

Kyrie (Fauré: Messe Brève)

Kyrie II LENT PREFACE

The Russian novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn is perhaps today's best known independent voice crying for the needs of the spirit in our world. While he was still in his homeland, he called for justice and humanity thro' his writings — and he suffered for it, as officials tried to silence his voice and stifle his spirit. The west made a kind of hero of him, for his struggle and his criticism of the Soviet regime. He was regularly in the news, frequently quoted. A great fuss was made of him when he was exiled from his country whose deep spirit and aspiration he so well embodied despite the odds and the pressures. He was a prophet not received in his own home. But now? Living in the West, Solzhenitsyn's integrity does not let him be silent about what's wrong with west either — but now he's also becoming a prophet not listened to in his place of exile. You don't read about him in the paper nearly so much now: what he has to say about decadence, loss of spirit and courage and integrity, people either don't want to hear, or think they know all about already,.... and not too much is done to right the wrongs & injustices he's been talking about. For that needs courage, and sacrifice and self-denial, which so many of us don't want to hear about or desperately try to find reasons why we shd. avoid it. Have you noticed how often the solutions proposed for the world's injustices and problems, perhaps notably over-population, are what other people have to do rather than self-restraint or sacrifice of what one already has? To change is always painful

in some way: countries don't want to change unjust systems which provide comfort and profit for the influential: and when force is used, other injustices get created, people become pawns. Then you easily get to the attitude that man was made for the sabbath, or the state or the party, or the government or whatever. During this 'examination-time' of Lent, let us look into our own hearts with honesty, to face what we must do or suffer, to listen to the ~~most~~ uncomfortable words of the prophets and of God which make demands of us first of all. Let us pray for the courage and grace to give, to change, to go with Christ on His way to bring about the true brotherhood and unity of mankind in the family of our Father. Think & pray about it now, listening to the hymn Cressida's 'Faithful Cross', in the music of King John

Lions. 2.76 of Portugal

MUSIC

PRAYERS

A few paragraphs now from a document of the 2nd Vatican Council [Brev. Lent Wk 4 Set p. 198]