



A Handbook of Church Music: A Practical Guide for All Those Having the Charge of Schools and Choirs, and Others Who Desire to Restore Plainsong to Its Proper Place in the Services of

By F Clement C Egerton

Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In the first place, it is not, as some suppose, a service which concerns priests alone. It is one in which all have a part: it is the heritage of all Catholics. We may say, indeed, that it has a lay origin, for the Divine Office owes its beginning in the Christian Church to the assembling of the people together, and especially the religious of both sexes. We must bear in mind that the early monks were laymen, and in the time of St. Benedict the priest-monk was the exception, not the rule. The Divine Office has nothing especially clerical in its structure, as it is said daily by nuns without the presence of a priest, also by various secular confraternities and societies in Catholic countries. We read in the Peregrinatio Etheriae how the faithful in Jerusalem in the fourth century assembled together for the morning and evening services, and it would appear that the congregation was almost entirely composed of lay people, the Bishop with his clergy entering towards the end, when the Bishop concluded with prayer....



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