

FOR CHRISTINE

A truly memorable date
To mark and to commemorate,
A Ruby record we salute Four whole
decades have taken root!
Consistently, since eighty-one,
You have enhanced the liturgy
And played the 'King of Instruments'
With diligent fidelity.
All those years of parish music,
Aptly chosen, played with flair,
Christenings, weddings, requiems,
always you were seated there.
Sunday Masses, Festal Days,
Echoing the cry of praise.
Each occasion brought to bear
Your sense of fitness, planning, care,
Building up the music's scheme
To reflect each special theme,
Choosing hymns that would accord
With what the readings had explored,
Keynotes of the Scripture heard
Rung again in tune and word.
Few there were who understood
What was required to make this good,
What this crucial role involved
What the problems to be solved —
To search, inspect, reflect, reject,
Try out, correct, rehearse, perfect.
Most took for granted this was norm,
The way all organists perform,
But dedication so profound
Is somewhat thin upon the ground.
And so — one line for every year! —
Comes warm congratulation here.
For forty years we have received
Rich blessings from what you've achieved
By such sustained devotion driv'n,
So willingly and freely giv'n.
With what distinction you have served!
Bene merenti: well deserved!

Jill Mitchell 20 April 2021