

## Fr James' homily for The Most Holy Trinity 2021



First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-40  
Second Reading: The Letter of St Paul to the Romans: 8:14-17  
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

***“O most Holy Trinity, I adore you!  
My God, my God, I love you in the most Blessed Sacrament!”***

This is the prayer that came, by grace, into the hearts and minds of the three children of Fatima at the end of their first meeting with Our Lady. They had experienced being wrapped in an extraordinary light that came from Our Lady's hands, and they somehow knew that, as they later said, this light was God, surrounding them with his love, and in that light they saw themselves more clearly than in any mirror.

I find it reassuring that these small children could by instinct understand something so mature and complex about God, and they knew this was an experience of God the Most Holy Trinity, Father Son and Holy Spirit, even if they didn't know clearly what those words meant. So the prayer says it all: we are made to adore the wonder of God the Trinity, and we meet and understand something of his mystery when we are in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

At present, other than at Mass time, our doors (at St Gabriel's) are open only on Saturday mornings for everyone to come safely to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Let us pray that more becomes possible next month. Perhaps, like me, you have spent some time at “virtual” Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament online during lockdown. This is a comfort and an aid to prayer. But it's not the same thing. We want to be near the mystery of God, because by instinct we know this teaches us what words and ideas and homilies can't teach us.

Jesus had said “I and the Father are one”, and at the Resurrection we first hear “Jesus breathed on them and said Receive the Holy Spirit” Scripture throughout tells us of the mystery of God the Holy Trinity, the dynamic force of Love that makes it possible for us to be enfolded into the very life of God himself.

Our scriptures today tell us more of this. In Deuteronomy God makes his covenant with his people so that they might share his life and indeed his eternal life. St Paul writing to the Christians of Rome whom he has not yet met talks of the Spirit of God and our own spirit leading us to intimate harmony with our Father, expressed in the most intimate terms - Abba! How does Paul know this? Because of his meeting with the risen Jesus, God with us.

And seeing the risen Jesus, at the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew today, we see the drama of every living soul: will we give our lives to him in worship, or draw away in doubt? This drama is the story of our lives. Each day we must give ourselves away anew to the love who is God....and when we do, this is what we call conversion, and we become able to be his witnesses in our lives, to make disciples.

That is why it was genius from the Holy Spirit that the shepherds of Fatima prayed as they did. In their hearts and souls they knew they had been enfolded in mystery of God the Holy Trinity: the Abba, the Spirit and the mystery of Jesus crucified, risen and glorified, and as he had said: "with you to the end of time". With you, in all good and in all suffering and trial. With you in lockdowns and in release and easing of restrictions. That is why they loved him especially in the Blessed Sacrament. We too, today, can fall down and worship the Three in One, in the Blessed Sacrament, and ask for that grace to give ourselves away to him in conversion, that we might be his life in our corner of the world, and the reason why another will come to be his disciple.

This time last year I wrote: *So if one of the unlooked for gains of this horrid time of trial the world is going through is that we one day - soon, let us hope!- come through the door of church to bow down and worship before the Blessed Sacrament, knowing that miraculous presence in a new and deeper way, then we will have gained something priceless.*

Each day and each year we need to make that truth our own.

Amen.

Fr James and Fr Tom wish you a blessed Trinity Sunday. Keep safe and well, and never hesitate to pick up the telephone and be in touch.