

## Feast of the Trinity

### God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

#### INTRODUCTION

God shares himself with us through the three persons of the Trinity. We share the love of God the Father, the goodness of Jesus the Son, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light our candles today, we thank God the Father for sending Jesus his Son to rescue us from sin, and the Holy Spirit who will always be our friend. Sing the Candle Song.

#### SORRY

Read this prayer (*cf Psalm 14:2-3*):

Help us Lord to do what is right.

Make our words and thoughts true and sincere,

So that we harm no one by what we say or do.

We close our eyes and in our hearts we ask God's forgiveness if we have hurt others by what we have said or done.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1:  
*Share your word with us.*

#### GOSPEL (*cf Matthew 28:16-20*)

Jesus appeared to his disciples on a hillside where they had arranged to meet. When they saw him they fell to their knees and he said to them, 'All power in Heaven and on earth has been given to me, and I am sending you out into the world to make disciples of all peoples. Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey all the commandments I have given to you. Remember that I will always be with you, to the very end of time.'

#### DISCUSSION

Does anyone know what Trinity means, and what we are celebrating today? – 'Trinity' means something made up of three, and today we give thanks for the three persons of God.

Who are the three persons who make up the Holy Trinity and what do we know about them?

1. God the Father – He created the world and everything in it. He loves us all dearly and sent his only son, Jesus to rescue us from our sins.

2. God the Son – Jesus was made man. We know many stories which remind us of his kindness and goodness, and his love for *all* people. He taught us how we should live and the path to follow to find our way to Heaven. His love was so great, he died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us from sin.
3. God the Holy Spirit – We have learned that the Spirit takes many forms, wind, fire or a dove. He is invisible but very powerful, and he fills us with God's life and warms our hearts with the 'fire' of God's love and courage.

So there are three persons but only one God.

Do you find this difficult to understand? – The Trinity is a *mystery* which we cannot really understand, but because we *know* that God can do *anything*, we *believe* in this mystery. It is part of our faith.

(The Trinity is a very difficult concept for the children to understand, indeed it is very difficult for all of us to understand this essential mystery. It may be helpful however to use the activity below to convey the concept, although naturally even this is a simplification. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three different faces of the same God.)

Have ready three hats which will be instantly recognised by the children, for example hats belonging to a fireman, a policeman and a soldier. Ask for a volunteer to come and stand in front of the other children. Get the children to tell you the child's name and then as you place each hat on the child in turn, ask them to say what job the child would do while wearing that hat. 'This is John, the soldier – this is John, the fireman – this is John, the policeman.'

God is rather like the child with the three hats, he is only one God but according to what 'job' he is doing, and what 'hat' he is wearing, he can appear as the Father, Son or Holy Spirit.

#### ACTIVITY

Photocopy the illustration and ask each child to colour the three 'hats' worn by the one person of God.

#### CREED

Before saying the Creed together, help the children to think carefully about the words of the prayer, and their belief in God the Father, Jesus his Son, and the Holy Spirit.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Say together: 'The Glory Be'