

Trinity (C)

16th June 2019

'Trinity: perfect union of love'

Prov 8: *I was at His side, a master craftsman ...*

Ps 8: *the heavens, the work of your hands ...*

Rom 5: *hope is not deceptive: the love of God has been poured into our hearts.*

Jn 16: *Spirit takes from what is mine ... Everything the Father has is mine ...*

This month is just full of wonderful feasts and celebrations that allow us to 'feast' on the glories of our faith, and the deep meaning of being a Catholic Christian. Last Sunday we celebrated **Pentecost**; this week we celebrate **Trinity** Sunday; then next weekend **Corpus Christi** and the joyful occasions of First Holy Communion Masses; and then towards the end of the month the feast of the **Sacred Heart** of Jesus; and on the final weekend the feast of **SS Peter & Paul**, apostles and martyrs. All this, packed in to the one month of June. So, whilst we have completed our Easter season, and entered back in to the weeks of 'ordinary time,' yet in fact we won't see the green vestments of ordinary time at all on the Sundays this month: we'll be too full of these special commemorations.

So, what of Trinity Sunday? Is this simply a dry acknowledgment of the mystery of God's inner being? Well, it is a moment to reflect on this mystery of the Holy

Trinity, but that does not make it a dry or theoretical topic! In fact, for us to think about the inner life of God Himself takes us to the heart of what it means to know Him and love Him, and that's precisely what our faith is about.

Bringing together all that we have celebrated, right through from Advent to Pentecost, allows us to come to this understanding that God is Three-in-One. All that Jesus taught the disciples about the Father and the Spirit makes it clear that the Son is as equally God as is the Father; and the Holy Spirit likewise. Jesus's Gospel message speaks of Himself and the Father as 'one' and as 'equal' ... and then when He promises the Holy Spirit, He speaks of the Spirit as coming from the Father and the Son, in full communion with them both.

Whilst of course it is true that as human beings we can never *fully* understand the mysteries of God — we do have that challenge of trying to get our heads around the notion of 3 persons, 1 God — yet that does not mean that we cannot learn from it, accept it, and grow in love of it. For, truly, our Christian belief — our knowledge — of God

as the Trinity is not set us as a mental conundrum, but as a powerful way of reaching into the heart of the Godhead. Compare, for example, the idea of a lone, bachelor God with a God who is a communion of persons. The latter leads us to see that God is, in Himself, a perfect union of loving persons. This is the heart of all reality; this is the pattern after which God made the world, that love which draws people into harmony, love which unites, and brings happiness. God is already such a unity of love; and this He shows, as He sends first the Son, and then the Spirit, into the world of mankind. God's loving relationships are played out onto Creation, as He reveals gradually more and more of Himself to humanity. Jesus shows us that God wants to give Himself, to humble Himself to allow us to know Him; He shows that the Son loves the Father with such an infinite love that He will sacrifice Himself to fulfil the Father's plan; He shows that even after the outrage of our crucifying Him, yet His love overcomes that and is restored to us once more in the Resurrection; and then, further gifts showered upon us out of love: the very person

of the Holy Spirit, to dwell within the hearts of those baptised and confirmed into faith in the Lord Jesus.

All of this divine action of the Father, in Christ, by the Spirit, proves that what the Holy Trinity is, is perfect love. Trinity Sunday gives us a chance to reflect on this beautiful truth, and to anchor all the rest of our Christian year in this sublime fact: that God, the loving Trinity, perfect and utterly happy in Himself, chose freely to share His happiness, bestow His love, create a home in which His people could enjoy His benevolence. Everything we are as Christians comes back to this, and for this we worship Him, and every single day should give Him praise. For without His love, we are nothing ...

Glory be to the Father, Who by His almighty power and love created me, making me in the image and likeness of God.

Glory be to the Son, Who by His Precious Blood delivered me from hell, and opened for me the gates of heaven.

Glory be to the Holy Spirit, Who has sanctified me in the sacrament of Baptism, and continues to sanctify me by the graces I receive daily from His bounty.

Glory be to the Three adorable Persons of the Holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.