



TRINITY SUNDAY 2020

Some years ago a well-known American Archbishop went on pilgrimage to Rome, and he took his elderly mother with him. The high point of their visit was a private audience with the Pope.

During the audience the Pope lavished much praise on the Archbishop, telling his mother how fortunate she was to have such a wonderful son, so gifted, so learned, so holy... etc. etc.

"Just listen to that, Mom" said the Archbishop, "and don't forget that the Pope is infallible!"

Mom replied: "I've never had a crisis of faith before, but I sure have got one big crisis now!"

For some people, of course, the crisis of faith is very real. Not about the infallibility of the Pope, but about the very existence of God, about the meaning of life and death, of suffering, injustice and evil.

Some become atheists. Some agnostics. Others live in doubt or confusion. Others refuse to think about it.

Not long before she died at the age of 120! the oldest woman in France was interviewed on French TV. When asked about faith, she said that as a Catholic she prays to God every day, without fail.

But she quickly added that she had no belief in any after-life, in any kind of "heaven". When you are dead, you are dead, she insisted. And there is nothing beyond the grave, she told the interviewer.

Some of us know what it is to dip our big toe into the pool of doubt, of disbelief, into the water of the crisis of faith - even if we have never plunged in completely....

"O my God, IF there is a God... . Save my soul, IF I have a soul... ".

But today's feast of the "Most Holy and Undivided Trinity" comes to help us. It reveals to us our God is not simply an impersonal force, or an uncaused cause, or an unmoved mover.

No.

It reveals our God as a "person" with an inner life, because our God is LOVE. And to say that "God is love", is to say that God is a Trinity.

Saint Augustine explains it like this: every love implies' a Lover, a Beloved, and a Love uniting them.

That is why God cannot be one in the sense of being solitary or alone. That would make him a despot. There could be no love in him, because love must have an object. .

If God is love, there must be in the inner life of God a sharing, a receiving, a communicating, and a giving. There must be in the very life of God the possibility of intercourse and union. Because that is love.

That is why we say that God is a "trinity": a Lover, the Father; a Beloved, the Son; and a Love that is uniting them, the Holy Spirit.

God has revealed his own inner life as a "community of persons", a "family", a "Holy Trinity". God is never, never alone. God exists in relationship. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, are always present to each other, never divided, and never separated. Three persons, one God.

And each one of us has been created in their image and likeness; created for communion with them, and created for communion with each other. This is our very nature, our existence, and our true identity.

That is why the thing most opposed to God is loneliness. God is never, never alone. Never isolated from another. Love is never, never alone. The grace of today's feast calls us out of any loneliness, any alienation, any despair, to share in the love and communion of God, so as to share in the love and communion of each other.

Definitely a Feast to be celebrated with faith during this lockdown when many are self isolating, many feel alone, trapped in their fears. Not only is God never alone, but neither are we since Jesus is Emmanuel, 'God with Us'. *Mat 28:20 – 'I am with you always, even unto the end of the world'.*

Mary, Mother of the Church, Pray for us!

