

Trinity Sunday 2022

If hell is other people, as Jean Paul Satre would have us believe, and we might agree with him if people have been giving us a hard time, then we might be tempted to see heaven as some sort of glorious isolation. But even the greatest loners among us know deep down that we need other people. The 'We' of Pope Francis.

The feast of the Holy Trinity reminds us that what is true of us is true also of the God revealed by Jesus. At the very heart of God's own life is a communion of persons in perfect harmony. Within God there is a relationship of profound love between Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a love which is not closed in on itself but is open to each one of us. As St Paul writes in our second reading, 'the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.' It was only last weekend that we celebrated the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and in part of today's Gospel Jesus says, 'When the Spirit of Truth comes he will lead you to complete truth', and in another place Jesus tells us that the truth will set us free. The Spirit of truth will help us to free ourselves from the untruths of so many false gods who are frequently worshipped today. The god of power and domination, evident in different regimes in the world, or in leaders who are prepared to do anything to hold on to their positions. The god of privilege and exclusion, where the gulf between the rich and poor grows, the god of technology and the god of control.

The first reading from the book of Proverbs reminds us of God as creator, not just in a sort of Big Bang moment, but in a continuing way. If we respond to God the creator we will pray that our eyes will be opened to see God's work in the beauty of the natural world. There are moments, for example, the beauty of a sunrise or a sunset which open us to the mystery of God around us and of our invitation, indeed our responsibility to treat the environment with reverence and respect.

Someone once wrote, if we want to know what God is like, look at Jesus, because in Jesus God came among us, announcing in words and actions, God's saving presence in the world. When we take his words on board and are guided by his values, we share in his death and experience new life in his resurrection, not just after death, but in times of forgiveness, of reconciliation, of healing wounds and moving forward. It is Jesus who helps us to trust that God is with us now and will be with us until the end of time.

The Spirit is God's life within us, enabling us to share in the intimate love that exists between the Father and Son, freeing us from seeing religion as the fulfilling of imposed laws and regulations, but rather an opportunity to respond to God's life in us, freely and spontaneously, putting it into practice by a love of God, of self, our neighbour and the created world around us.

The Trinity, then, isn't just a mystery of faith we assent to in the creed, rather it expresses how God relates to us and how we, in response, are invited to relate to God, ourselves and the world in which we live.

Bidding Prayers for the Feast of the Trinity

Celebrant:

As children of the Father revealed by the Son and inspired by the Spirit we ask now for some of our many needs.

Reader:

We pray for the Church founded by the Son and guided by the Spirit – that it will always be faithful to the Gospel and give praise to the Father.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for world leaders – that they will do all they can to bring greater understanding between nations and within nations so that wars will end all people can live without fear and in peace.

Lord in your mercy

We pray that the meeting of the Americas will take place with the maximum participation of Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and El Salvador. That they will work together with President Biden to resolve the issues of the region

Lord in your mercy

We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit – that they will experience the healing presence of Christ and the love and support of family and friends.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for all those who have died, especially all victims of violence, accident, natural disaster and the COVID 19 pandemic, Deacon Edwin Murphy who died recently and Veronica Long, Nellie Wood, Raymond Long, Johanna Friedrich, John Collins and Dympna Howell, whose anniversaries occur this week– that they and all who have died will see God revealed by Jesus as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Lord in your mercy

Either aloud or in silence we pray for our own special intention...pause...then

Lord in your mercy

We ask the prayers of Mary as we say, Hail Mary...

Celebrant:

Lord our God, Creator of all that is, Redeemer of the world, Sanctifier of your people, hear our prayers and grant what we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen