

## **Trinity Sunday**

How did we feel when we were at Mass last weekend celebrating with the children who made their First Holy Communion? Did we have a sense of being connected with them? Was our own sense of being part of that community of faith that we call Church deepened? Today's celebration helps us to go to the heart of our faith and who we are as Church.

Today we come together to celebrate the community of love that we call God. We celebrate the choice that God has made for us to be immersed into that community. When we came into the church today most of us dipped our fingers into the holy water font and signed ourselves with the cross. We probably didn't think of it at the time but we did that to remind ourselves that we have been baptised with water into the life of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We remembered that we have the right to be here and to celebrate the Eucharist, because God had chosen us to be part of his family.

Today we celebrate the mystery that is the Holy Trinity. Jesus has made it clear to us that he was sent to us from the Father. He promised to send his Holy Spirit to us so that we would have the power to continue to do the work that he had begun. In our gospel today he speaks about the Spirit as being the Spirit of truth who will lead us to the complete truth. The intimate connection between the

Father, Jesus and the Spirit is difficult for us to get our mind around. Jesus speaks of it today when he says that "the Spirit will not be speaking from himself, but only what he has learnt. All that he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine."

Theologians have tried to find the right words to describe the relationship that is shared between the Father Son and Spirit. We hear it spoken of as a communion of love. Many of us grew up with rather static images of the Holy Trinity. We knew that there were three persons in the one God, but we became tongue tied when we tried to say any more. We took comfort in describing the Holy Trinity as a mystery. We were not told that the word mystery was a way of describing something that is gradually being revealed rather than something that must remain hidden.

In the Apostles' Creed that we now use at Mass we proclaim our faith in the Trinity. "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord. I believe in the Holy Spirit" But today's feast is much more than an opportunity to renew our faith in the Trinity. It is an invitation to renew our commitment to living out the life of the Trinity. It is an invitation to allow God to draw us ever closer into that communion of love that is God.

As we have discovered from reading John's gospel during the Easter Season, Jesus wants us to know how loved we are by God so that we may have the freedom and courage to love as Jesus loves. We share the life of God so that we can share the gift of God's life with others. The love with which The Father loves Jesus and Jesus loves the Father has been poured into our hearts. There is much more than we need for ourselves. It is with God's love that we reach out to others.

During last Sunday's Pentecost Mass Pope Francis noted that the Holy Spirit does not bring only harmony *within us* but also *among us*, distributing the great variety of the Church's qualities and gifts creatively. And on the basis of this variety, he continued, the Spirit builds unity: "From the beginning of creation, he has done this. Because he is a specialist in changing chaos into cosmos, in creating harmony." Underscoring the fact that lack of harmony in today's world has led to stark divisions, the Pope said, "There are those who have too much and those who have nothing, those who want to live to a hundred and those who cannot even be born". He said that in "the age of the computer, distances are increasing: the more we use the social media, the less social we are becoming". We need the Spirit of unity to regenerate us as Church, as God's People and as a human family.

"The Holy Spirit brings together those who were distant, unites those far off, brings home those who were scattered. God's Spirit blends different tonalities in a single harmony, because before all else the Spirit sees goodness," I suppose this is something of what Jesus means when He says in today's Gospel that the Spirit will lead us to the complete truth. There is so much that we still have to learn about how we can live in communion with God and with one another.

Our connectedness with God needs to be celebrated by our connectedness with one another and our connectedness with God's creation. Today's beautiful reading from the Book of Proverbs helps us to remember that we are called to discover and reverence God's creative Spirit, the Wisdom of God, in the world that God is creating. The poetry of it cannot help but lead to prayer. "I was by his side, a master craftsman, delighting him day after day, ever at play in his presence, at play everywhere in his world, delighting to be with humanity". As people of faith we can pray Psalm 8 as we did today and proclaim how wonderful God's name is in all the earth. No matter how few or many people we meet each day we can live as people of faith knowing how connected we are to one another. That connectedness is a reflection of the very life of God, the mystery that is at the centre of our faith.