

## Trinity Sunday

Over the last few weeks we have become more aware of how important it is for us to check in wherever we gather with other people. Contact tracing has determined who needed to be tested for possible Covid infection. It is almost as if we are defined by the brief relationships that we may have had with other people.

Today we gather to celebrate the much deeper and permanent relationship that we have with a God who has revealed himself to us through Jesus. On this feast of the Holy Trinity the readings from Scripture do not speak to us so much about who God is as about who we are in relationship to God.

In our first reading today we heard Moses put a question to his fellow Israelites, “Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it and remain alive? Has any God ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders? All this the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt.” The people of Israel became known as God’s own people. They were the ones that God had chosen to make known his great love for them and all in our world. They were gifted with the commandments so that they could know how to act in response to the love that God had for them.

St. Francis de Sales had a beautiful saying that can be understood at various levels. “Be who you are and be that well.” For us to be who we are, we must first know who we are. The privilege that we have as Christians is to know who we are in relationship with the God who made us and sustains us in being. We know who we are as people who are loved by God in ways beyond our imagining and are drawn into the very life of God.

St. Paul speaks to us today about that intimate union that God has made with us by sharing the Spirit of Jesus with us. “The spirit you received is the spirit of sons and daughters, and it makes us cry out, Abba Father. The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God.” When we know who we are as children of God then we are called to be Children of God and be that well.

That union with Jesus that Paul talks about began for us when we were baptised. At the end of Matthew’s gospel, we hear what happened when Jesus gathered the eleven apostles together at Galilee. Matthew tells us that when they saw him, they worshiped him though some hesitated. He wanted us to understand that coming to faith in Jesus is not easy. All throughout our lives we will have our doubts and our faith will be tested. But when the eleven did recognise Jesus as their risen Lord, they were ready to be given the authority and power to

go out and act in his name. “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations” Here is the heart of who we are as Church. We are disciples of the Lord. I came across a wonderful description of what a disciple is.

“The disciple lives with the master and thus learns from this daily living together. The disciple forms community with the master and follows him, seeking to imitate his way of living and of living together. The disciple is always open to learning. Like the servant of the Lord, the disciple strains his or her ear to listen to what God has to say.” You and I can only say that we are learning to become disciples of Jesus.

Jesus went on to command his disciples to “Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” We can be very grateful that the work that was begun that day has continued right down to us. We have been immersed into the very life of God through our baptism. And as St. Paul says we have been given the promise of sharing this life forever. “If we are children we are heirs as well; heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.”

Matthew concludes his gospel as he began it. The God who took flesh in the Virgin Mary was to be called Emmanuel, a name that means “God is with us.” As

Jesus sends out his disciples he assures them, “And know that I am with you, yes to the end of time.”

This weekend the families of those children who are preparing for their Confirmation and First Holy Communion are gathering at Strathalbyn to take the last steps in their preparation for these sacraments. The first steps of preparation were taken when they brought their children to the waters of Baptism. They know that Baptism was a moment of grace that invited Jesus to begin to reveal the face of God to their children. Jesus has been using the parents of these children to help them to know who they are as beloved children of God and to be who they are. It is within their families that these children have experienced the love God has for them. Today this Jesus says to these children and to all of us, “I am Emmanuel. I am the God who has come to be always with you. I am the one who draws you into the communion of love that is the Holy Trinity. Allow me to love you with the same Spirit of Love that My Father has for me and I have for my Father.”