

Holy Trinity

Children, when you began your preparation for celebrating Confirmation and First Holy Communion, I said something to you that I think is still very important. I said that the most important thing that you can do in your preparation, is to come to know Jesus. Coming to know Jesus as someone who cares about you deeply and who loves you even more than your parents can, is the most important thing that you can learn as you prepare to receive Him in Holy Communion.

When we come to know somebody, we come to know their story. We come to know what they like and dislike. We come to know what gives them joy. I'm sure that you could tell me a lot about your friends: what their favourite colours are, what they like to eat, what they enjoy doing. When we come to know Jesus, we come to know his story. We come to know who his family was. We come to know a little about Joseph who adopted him as his son, cared for him as child, gave him the skills to become a carpenter and taught him how to pray. We come to know something of his mother Mary, who believed what the angel told her and accepted the extraordinary role of becoming the Mother of God. We come to know her deep trust in God even when she did not understand how God was going to bring about what God had promised.

When we come to know Jesus, we come to know what pleased him and what he disliked. When we come to know Jesus, we begin to listen to the things he said, and we start to remember the things that he did to show us the love that God has for us. When we come to know Jesus, we cannot help but feel sad about the way that he was treated by some of the Jewish leaders, made to suffer and then undergo a very cruel death. But to know Jesus is to know that he was raised from the dead and that his rising from the dead is a promise and a foretaste of what is ahead for each one of us.

That Jesus that you have come to know plays a very special part in your life in these days. This morning/ yesterday morning, he shared his own Spirit with you when you received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The community prayed for you that you would be filled with those sevenfold gifts that you will need to be a good disciple of Jesus. When you were anointed with oil, I prayed that you would be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. I prayed that you would know the choice that God has made for you to know him and love him and serve him throughout your life.

Today Jesus wants to come to you in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. He wants to give himself to you in Holy Communion. You have come to understand that in a way that you will never understand, Jesus becomes present

for us under the appearance of a little piece of bread. What you see looks like bread, but you understand it be Jesus himself, the Bread of Life. As you open your hand to receive Jesus, you try to open your heart to allow him to enter deep within you and fill you with his love for you.

You are celebrating your First Holy Communion on the Feast of the Holy Trinity. We can only know the true nature of God when we know Jesus. When we know Jesus, we begin to know the one that Jesus calls Abba, father. The more we know Jesus, the more we know the great love that Jesus has for his father. And this love has a name. It is the Holy Spirit. God's love is such that it cannot be contained. God's love created the world. God's love created you and me. God's love lives in you and me so that we can love one another.

The Jewish people who lived before Jesus were not able to speak about God as a Trinity of persons, but they had a sense that there was more to God than they could understand. They spoke about the Wisdom of God as a way of speaking about God's creative power, and about the way that God guides us to make good decisions. Our beautiful first reading today talks about that Wisdom of God.

Jesus talks to us in the gospel about the Spirit of Truth who will lead us to the full truth. This is the Spirit that everyone of us needs to live our lives well. We want the Spirit of Jesus to teach us what is true, what is best for us and for others, what is the most loving thing that we can do right now.

When we know Jesus, we know that we can call upon him at any time to give us the wisdom and the love that we need to live each day well. He is the one who shares his Spirit of love with us so that we can be people made in the image of God, the God who is love.