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Sunday 7 June 2020
Solemnity of the Most Holy
Trinity



Dear Friends and Parishioners,

It was a poignant moment last Sunday at the end of Vespers, extinguishing the Paschal Candle. It had burned each day of the fifty days of Eastertime, yet its light had not been enjoyed by our gathered congregations during all our customary liturgies of the Easter season. We were unable to pass the light of the candle around at a public Easter Vigil this year, and did not witness the candle “spend itself” as it burned each day, its light announcing the victory of the risen Lord. Sunday’s solemnity of Pentecost brought to completion not only the feast of Easter but the entire *Paschal Season*. Lasting ninety days plus, this season began on Ash Wednesday, with the preparatory rites of Lent; little did we know on Ash Wednesday how we would live out this sacred time in 2020.

Two further Sunday Solemnities are celebrated now, as Ordinary Time gets under way: This coming Sunday is *Trinity Sunday*, when we enter the mystery of Father, Son and Spirit in a particularly reflective way, and next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord,

characterised in our Diocese over generations as the day of the *Blessed Sacrament Procession*. There will be no such procession this year, but when the time comes and our churches reopen perhaps we will all have a greater yearning to gather together as the body of Christ, and to be joined together as that body at the Eucharistic table.

So...onto this Sunday’s great mystery: that of the Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If we expected this Sunday’s scripture readings to give us a clear and elaborate presentation of the **doctrine** of the Blessed Trinity, we will find that they don’t.

The **doctrine** of three persons in one God, equal in divinity yet distinct in personality, is not explicitly spelt out in the Bible. In fact the very word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible. Rather, early Christians arrived at the doctrine of the Trinity when they applied their God-given reason to the revelation which they had received in faith. Jesus spoke about the Father who sent him (the Son) and about the Holy Spirit whom he was going to send. He said that the Father had given him (the Son) all that he has and that he in turn has given to the Holy Spirit all that he has received from the Father. In this we see the unity of purpose among the three persons of the Trinity.

In the story of salvation we usually attribute creation to the Father, redemption to the Son and sanctification to the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, though they are distinct as persons, neither the Father nor the Son nor the Holy Spirit ever exists in separation or acts in isolation from the other two persons of the Godhead.

The inner relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in such a way that each of them is fully and equally God, yet there are not three Gods but one

is incomprehensible to the human mind. It is indeed a mystery.

The story is told of St Augustine of Hippo, a great philosopher and theologian who wanted so much to understand the doctrine of the Trinity and to be able to explain it logically.

One day as he was walking along the sea shore and reflecting on this, he suddenly saw a little child all alone on the shore. The child made a hole in the sand, ran to the sea with a little cup, filled her cup, came and poured it into the hole she had made in the sand. Back and forth she went to the sea, filled her cup and came and poured it into the hole. Augustine went up to her and said, "Little child, what are doing?" and she replied, "I am trying to empty the sea into this hole." "How do you think," Augustine asked her, "that you can empty this immense sea into this tiny hole and with this tiny cup?"

To which she replied, "And you, how do you suppose that with this your small head you can comprehend the immensity of God?" With that the child disappeared.



Live stream Mass: Monsignor Aldo Angelosanto shall be the celebrant for the livestream Mass this Trinity Sunday at 10.30am from Lawside Convent. www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk

I will celebrate the **Evening Prayer of the Church** for Trinity Sunday at 4pm in the Cathedral. I'm attaching/enclosing a Word document with the text of the Evening Prayer if you'd like to share in it at

home.

Our Prayers for those who have died recently:

James Condie, Moray Long, Phyllis Robertson, Joan Stark, Elizabeth Connelly;

those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Linda Barbieri, Jill Reid, Ronald Devine, May Campbell, Harry McGregor, Father Jim Foley, Douglas Crighton, Charlie Mullen, Emilia Zanre, Christine Martin;

all those who are sick: Sharon McInally, Moira Wilkie, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Stephens, Gillian Steedman, Steven Kennedy, Sharon Davison, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Bridie Mossey, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga, Estelle Fox, Allison Matthew; and our continued prayer for those suffering from Covid 19, those caring for them, all medical and support staff, volunteers, all those working to ensure our public services continue in these times, all parents, grandparents and childcare workers, teachers and ancillary staff and all those we know to be spending themselves so generously in the care of others these days.

Follow the reflections and music during the week on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsRCDundee/>

Your Offertory Contributions: Your contributions to the parish during this time are especially appreciated – either through cash, cheque or standing order. There is also a new way of donating through the Diocesan website.



The Bishops of Scotland met (virtually) this week and we are hopeful that news about places of worship being reopened to the public will be

forthcoming through their deliberations with the government.

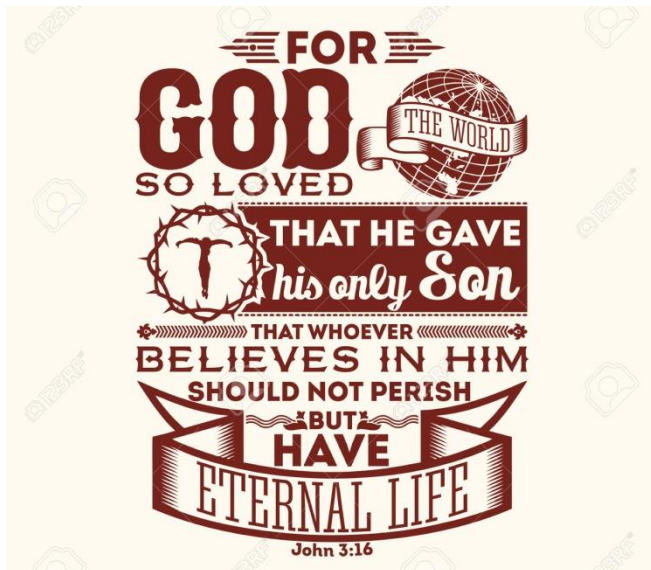
The churches are being prepared so that when we are allowed to re-open - for private prayer and adoration and confession in the first instance I think, there will be suitable social distancing measures in place, and opportunities to sanitise hands etc. It is likely that there will be limitations on numbers of people allowed in at any one time, but we shall advertise times well in advance and do our best to facilitate everyone's needs.

Cathedral 200 Club winners for May are:

1st: £50 - Jim McMahon;

2nd: £30 - Marie Elbuzedi;
3rd: £20 - Joyce Scott.

Keeping this Sunday holy with a Home Liturgy



A prayer to begin

O God, we praise you:
Father all powerful, Christ, Lord and Saviour.
Spirit of love.
You reveal yourself to us
in the very depths of our being,
drawing us to share in your life and your love.
One God, three persons!
Be near to the people formed in your image,
and close to the world your love brings to life.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Penitential Litany

God the Father, you are the God of all tenderness.
When we forget to share this tenderness with our
brothers and sisters, **forgive us Lord, we pray.**

God the Son, you are our Saviour and brother,
you came not to condemn but to save.
When we judge and condemn each other,
forgive us Lord, we pray.

God the Holy Spirit, you are the communion of
love of the Father and the Son.
When we treat our brothers and sisters as strangers
forgive us Lord, we pray.

Read the Scriptures of the day

The Book of Exodus 34: 4-6; 8-9:

The Lord our God is a God of tenderness and
compassion.

Psalm – the Canticle of Daniel:

To you, glory and praise for evermore.

2 Corinthians 13: 11-13: *The grace of Jesus
Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit.*

Gospel of John 3 16-18:

God loved the world so much...

Points for reflection

In the light of the First Reading from Exodus,
reflect on how you have experienced the
graciousness of God the Creator, the mercy of
God the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit in
your own life.

Think of and remember someone who has loved
or loves you, and important times spent with that
person, then ask yourself:
What are the qualities of that person's love for
you?
How did/does that person enhance your faith life
and growth?

Thinking of the Second Reading, from St Paul,
recall that the Trinity is an expression of God as
"community" and "unity". The icon of the Trinity
on the previous page may help.

In the light today's Gospel, recall any experience
in your life where the truth of God *sending his
Son not to condemn but to save*, has been your
own experience. What is the joy of knowing
God's **mercy** (rather than condemnation) really
like? How does it make you feel?

Think of how you in turn can be an agent of God's
generous compassion and understanding rather
than condemnation.

Intercessions

Take time to voice your own personal prayers and
intentions and then sum up with the Lord's Prayer.

A prayer to close

O God of tenderness and compassion,
with Moses we implore you:
let us find favour before you.
Walk in our midst
as you did at the time of the Exodus
Walk with us through the darkest of nights
and brightest of days.
We can be a stubborn people,
like your people of old,
so please forgive us our faults,
and make of us a people

who truly reflect your love, and name,
to the ends of the earth. Amen.