

BULLETIN 13 - THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe. This Covid 19 just seems to be endless, yet there is a feeling that we are over the worst for the time being. There should be however no room for complacency. As the restrictions are lifted bit by bit we must stay alert. There is news that the government will soon allow churches to reopen initially for private prayer, we have received from the Bishops Conference the guidelines that we will all need to follow in order to stay safe. I have asked Deacon Michael to implement these new regulations and he will be giving us the guidance as it applies to our Parish situation. In the meantime as we shall need volunteers to help watch over the church whilst it's open and to assist in sanitising as visitors leave. If you are able and willing to be a steward would you please let Deacon Michael or I know asap. Obviously the more volunteers we have the longer our church can be open. One of the sad facts of this time has been the locking of all places of worship. At times such as these people turn to God for help, even those who don't usually practice a faith, and not to be allowed to go and pray and find some peace in a Holy Place has made matters worse. Well it seems that that will soon be rectified, however we must all be vigilant and sensibly follow the rules.

As I guess many of you will now know the live stream is up and running. We had a few problems with volume levels at first, but hope that these have been put right. Many have written to say how much they have appreciated being able to worship in their own church again, virtually, such comments make the effort that has been put in so worthwhile. For me personally, I appreciate being able to go online into my church at any time of the day or night and pray before my King in His tabernacle. You will see from the schedule below that I will continue to offer the mass daily for you intentions, I feel that I have to be careful and so some of the masses are said privately in my home. Deacon Michael will lead other devotions on the days I'm isolating. The masses and services in red are the ones that will be streamed live.

We have made a start to clear the presbytery in readiness for the necessary renovations, first stage being to carefully pack and store the belongings of Fr. Michael Butler. The house will then need repairing, renewing and redecorating. I am grateful to those who have been able to help us, do let us know if you too can assist.

I have had a number of requests to hear people's confessions, this I am happy to do, but it must be in the open air at this time. If you would like me to hear your confession please contact me and we can make an appointment, I am available before or after mass on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays. With every blessing,

Fr. John

MASS & SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sun 7 th	Holy Trinity Sunday	10.00 Mass	for People of our Parish
Mon 8 th	feria	10.00 Mass	Bob Osborn (INT)
Tue 9 th	St Ephraem	10.00 Mass	Jo Gallagher (INT)
Wed 10 th	feria	10.00 Mass	Jim Birchall (RIP)
		10.30 Rosary	
Thu 11 th	St Barnabas	10.00 Mass	Monica Hogan (INT)
		10.30 Adoration	
Fri 12 th	feria	10.00 Mass	John Hogan (RIP)
		10.30 Stations	
Sat 13 th	St Anthony	10.00 Mass	Tess Hogan (RIP)
Sun 14 th	Corpus Christi Sunday	10.00 Mass	People of our Parish
		10.50 Benediction	

NB The service times in red will be live streamed

GOSPEL REFLECTION

“God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.

One of the greatest of the Greek philosophers, Aristotle, famously said that human beings are political animals. By that, he didn't mean that we all belong to political parties or have certain ideologies. In his terms, Aristotle meant that we are designed to live in community. He thought that the basic unit of human society was the family, and several families gathering together made the *polis*, or basic political unit. However, absolutely fundamental was the idea that we flourish in community. We learn by imitating others and being taught by others. We love telling stories, we have a need to create, and we build and trade. Even the hermit, living in a hut in the forest, can only be solitary because he or she first belongs to the human family.

As well as this social aspect, we can also have a rich interior life. We can imagine, have daydreams and capture in our minds the essence of things. Above all we can understand, and communicate that understanding with words and concepts. As somebody once said, we are the only animals who keep diaries to record and reflect on our inner life. All this is the case because we are made according to a certain plan or pattern. Like a painting, we carry the tell-tale signs of the artist who made us; we can even say we have the signature of the Most Holy Trinity.

What is meant by that? As the incarnation reveals to us, God is eternally one, but also a communion of Persons. The interior life of God, if we may put it like that, is the eternal communion of love between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: one sole God in essence, with three distinct Persons. St Paul, in his beautiful farewell to the Corinthians, associates grace with the incarnate eternal Son, Jesus Christ; love with God the Father; and fellowship, or communion, with the Holy Spirit. This helps us gain an entry into the mystery, but in reality all three Persons are grace, love and communion. God has revealed to us the names Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to help draw us into this mystery, so we can communicate with the holy and undivided Trinity.

The terms express a reality, but a reality which we will only see when we participate fully in the eternal love of the three Persons in heaven. Here we have to exercise our spiritual muscles to receive the reality of the Trinity, where, in the words of St Athanasius: “In that Trinity there is no before or after, nothing greater or lesser: because the three Persons are co-eternal and equal among themselves.” So we are social creatures because God is communion. We are rational creatures because the divine Trinity is the fountain of all reason, order and intelligence.

So we have the maker's mark, the artist's signature. But God does more than create us; we are also redeemed. The eternal Word, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, while never ceasing to be God, took on our human nature. God could have redeemed us with just a word of command. But God wishes to enter into the life of God's beloved creatures to heal and raise them to participate, by grace, in the divine, eternal life. So great is God's desire to share communion with us that Jesus Christ, who is both divine and human, was prepared to suffer and die on the cross to communicate that love.

But, not content with dying and rising for us, Jesus also sent the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to dwell within the Church, and dwell within each one of the baptised. In fact, the whole of the Trinity dwells within us when we live a sacramental life in the Church, when we pray, in our life of good works. Without that divine life, healing and illuminating us, we would be unable even to make the sign of the cross with any conviction.

St Elizabeth of the Trinity, who died in 1906 and was canonised in 2016 by Pope Francis, had an especially vivid awareness of the indwelling of the Blessed Trinity. She was an ordinary girl from an ordinary family but was graced to experience profoundly the divine Persons in her daily life. She wrote: “O my God, Trinity whom I adore! Grant my soul peace. Make it your heaven, your beloved dwelling and the place of your rest.” We are made for communion, communion with each other and communion with God.