



HOLY TRINITY

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

2 Corinthians 13:13

On Sunday, we celebrated Trinity Sunday. This feast is the culmination of a series of immensely important moments in the liturgical life of the Church and of course, in our own faith.

We proclaim the Creed at Mass. Sometimes, with prayers we regularly repeat, we start to not notice the meaning of the words we are saying. I think the Creed is at risk of this happening. Yet the Nicene Creed identifies who the Trinity is. The Creed is so central, we draw on similar words at baptism and we repeat our baptismal vows during the Easter Triduum.

Contemporary theology offers other ways of describing God that are not limited by gender-specific language. But the foundational belief of Christianity is that the one God we believe in is a God of love shared between the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. God is a mystery we can contemplate but never understand. Words fail us, as does thought itself.

Though words are inadequate to describe God, we do our best to find ways of expressing in prayer and in our discussions with each other, who we understand God to be.

What words do you use to describe God?

There are many ways of describing God, and efforts to describe God also often result in poetry, art, music, dance – expressions from the heart – because we want to call on our whole being to praise God. Some common words used include:

Perfection, Truth, Beauty, Goodness, Love, Mercy, Communion, Relationship, Wholeness

What words would you add?

NICENE CREED - extracts

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, **consubstantial of one Being with the Father.**

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We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

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Council of Nicaea (AD 325)

St Patrick found the shamrock provided a way of conveying the notion of the Trinity:

St. Patrick, the missionary patron saint of Ireland, used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. The story goes that one day his friends asked Patrick to explain the Mystery of the Trinity. He looked at the ground and saw shamrocks growing amid the grass at his feet. He picked up one of its trifoliate leaves and asked if it were one leaf or three. Patrick's friends couldn't answer – the shamrock leaf looked like one, but it clearly had three parts. Patrick explained to them: 'The mystery of the Holy Trinity – one God in Three Persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – is like this, but more complex and unintelligible.'



<http://frtonyshomilies.com/2020/05/31/the-most-holy-trinity-sunday-homily-june-7-2020/>

**You see the Trinity,
if you see love.**

St Augustine

In a Year 1 classroom, the children were given a free choice about what to draw during their art class. As the teacher wandered around the room, she paused beside a young girl and asked her what she was drawing. 'I'm drawing God', came the reply. 'But sweetheart, no one knows what God looks like!' Without a flicker of hesitation came the reply, 'They will in a minute.'

As you read (and chuckle) at the story in the box, if you were asked to draw God (the Trinity), what might your creation look like? What colours would you use? Are there particular shapes or images you would use?



Sculpture inspired by Rublev's icon, Cathedral of the Assumption, Yaroslavl, Russia

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.