



**St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



June 04, 2023

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

"O Trinity, eternal Trinity! Fire, abyss of love ...Was it necessary that you should give even the Holy Trinity as food for souls? You gave us not only your Word through the Redemption and in the Eucharist, but you also gave yourself in the fullness of love for your creature."

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

READINGS

1st Reading Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9

2nd Reading 2 Cor 13:11-13

GOSPEL Jn 3:16-18

Introduction: Today's feast invites us to live in the awareness of the presence of the Triune God within us: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the Holy Trinity, a doctrine enunciated by the ecumenical councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, is one of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity and the greatest mystery of our Faith, namely, that there are Three Divine Persons, sharing the same Divine Nature in one God. "There is one God, who has three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each Person is God, yet there is still only one God" (CCC #234, #253-256). We have the Father Who is the Creator, the Son Who is the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit Who is the Sanctifier, the Counsellor. The doctrine of Three Persons in one God, co-equal and co-eternal in Divinity yet distinct in Person, is not explicitly spelt out in the Bible. Even the very word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible. But the doctrine of the Trinity underlies all major Christian feasts, including Christmas, the Epiphany, Good Friday, Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost. All the official prayers of the Church, including the Holy Mass and the Sacraments, begin with an address to the Holy Trinity: "*In the Name of the Father*

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” We are baptized, absolved of our sins, and anointed in the name of the Blessed Trinity.

The first reading explained: Today’s first reading , taken from the book of Exodus, describes how God revealed His name to Moses as “Yahweh,” which means, “*I am Who am.*” But Orthodox Jews in absolute reverence, never used that most sacred Name name. They addressed God by calling Him, *Elohim* (God, the common name) or Lord (*Adonai*). The passage is also as close as the Bible comes to giving a definition of God. The Lord God says of Himself, “*The Lord, the Lord [is] a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.*” Every part of that statement stresses God in relationship to humankind, and it emphasizes especially God’s great love for us. The revelation of God’s nature as Triune was made by Jesus. In fact, the very word “Trinity,” referring to Three Persons in One God -- one in Godhead yet distinct in Person -- is not explicitly spelled out in the Bible, although the doctrine on Trinity is mentioned about forty times in the New Testament, but without using the term “Trinity.” Rather, the early Church arrived at the doctrine of the Trinity when, guided by the Holy Spirit, she reflected on the Revelation which she had received from Jesus in Faith.

Today’s second reading explained: Taken from St. Paul’s second Letter to the Corinthians, today’s second reading contains the ancient apostolic blessing in the name of the Holy Trinity: “*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.*” Paul reminds the people of the Father’s love, the grace that comes through Jesus Christ and the fellowship or the unifying power of the Holy Spirit. The word “*grace*” in a theological context refers to Divine favor. In Christ, God has shown favor toward us humans, a special care for us, and a desire that through Jesus’ life, death and Resurrection we might find and enjoy a right relationship with God. We often use the phrase “*the love of God*” to describe our response to God and our duty to love God. That is both correct and appropriate. But what comes first is God’s love for us. The Scriptures emphasize that God has loved us first and that our love for God is only a fitting response. *And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit:* The Holy Spirit shapes and animates the life of the Christian community. In other words, we live our Christian lives in the fellowship, or *koinonia*, formed by the Holy Spirit because it is He who guides, empowers and teaches us in Christ’s place and brings us together in Faith, Love, and Hope.

Today’s Gospel comes from the story of Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus. Jesus speaks about the Father who has sent him (the Son), and after the Last Supper, He speaks about the Holy Spirit Whom he will send. He says that the Father has given him (the Son) all that He has and that Jesus, 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.

Frank Sheed's explanation of the Holy Trinity: The great apologist **Frank Sheed** used to give a very **interesting** explanation of the Most Holy Trinity. He started by thinking about our **own** human nature. Each one of us **exists**, but since we are **spiritual**, we also have an **idea** of ourselves. We can **think about** ourselves, **reflect** on ourselves, and **know** ourselves. This is why human beings are the only animals on earth who **write diaries**.

That's similar to what happens in the **relationship** between God the **Father** and God the **Son**. God the Father is **spiritual**, able to know Himself. He has an **Idea of Himself**. But, since His knowledge is **limitless**, unlike ours, that Idea of Himself is **perfect** and **perfectly complete**. But to be perfect, the Idea, or the Word, has to **share** in God's own **existence**; the Word actually has to **be** a Divine Person. And so, God the Father, from all eternity, knowing Himself, **engenders the Son**, the perfect Image of the Father. And then, of course, since both the Father and the Son are **Infinitely Good and Beautiful**, as soon as They **know** Each Other, They also **love** Each Other. Even we, when we **think** about ourselves, **love** ourselves. We **want the best** for ourselves. We are **glad** that we exist. But God's Love, like his Knowledge, is limitless, Infinite, and so this Love, too, has to be Infinite and so **intense** and so full that it shares **fully** in the Divine existence; this Love is a Divine Person - the **Holy Spirit**.

This is the mystery we profess **each week** when we affirm our belief in the Son of God, who is "consubstantial [one in Being] with the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God" and in the Holy Spirit, who "with the Father and the Son is **worshipped** and **glorified**." (E- Priest) -- (***Holy Trinity:*** Our God is far beyond the grasp of our intellect. All we can say is: God, the Father, our Father, is Omnipresent, and so I live in Him because the universe exists in Him. The Son, Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us -- and so He is always with me; I live with Him. The Holy Spirit is the One Who inspires us all from within us, and so The Holy Spirit lives in my heart. *There is only one God. We live in Him; He lives with us and He lives in us. Yahweh - "I am Who am"* -- *He is all* (Joe Vempeny) ---The great 20th-century Catholic Theologian Father Karl Rahner, SJ, was supposedly asked once by a priest friend how he should explain the Holy Trinity when preaching. Father Rahner's reply was

simple: “Don’t!” The mystery we celebrate in today’s feast defies not only explanation but also intellectual comprehension (OSV)

MAY 27/28 COLLECTIONS

Loose cash	191.22
Gift Aid	46.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>237.22</u>

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Offered by	For The Intention of
03/06/23-	Christian Hopewell	For the Hopewell Family
04/06/23		For the Parishioners
05/06/23	Hazel	For Good health of Antonio Machado
06/06/23	Grace and Francisca	Wedding Anniversary
07/06/23	Josephine	For Rita Family
08/06/23	Annette D’ Souza	Thanksgiving
09/06/23	Melois Fernandes	Thanksgiving

HOUSE BLESSING

Blessing of the Houses during the Easter season has been a Catholic tradition for centuries. We would like to resume that tradition in our parish. Those who like their Houses blessed during the coming months please make an appointment with Fr. Paul or Fr. Jacob, or send a request in the parish email-<pantasphstdavids@gmail.com>

MASS INTENTIONS

Please Pray for our Sick

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277

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