

## Homily for Trinity Sunday

God for us, we call you Father, God alongside us, we call you Jesus, God within us we call you Holy Spirit. Today is the Sunday of the Most Holy Trinity. It is a mystery of the entire universe, because it is the mystery of the identity of God. We ask a question, who is God? the answer is the Trinity. In past centuries, most people believed in the reality of God. This is not the case nowadays. Not only do many of our fellowmen openly profess lack of religious faith, but the lifestyles all around us often promote a practical atheism that is hard to resist. Especially in city life, in a world of man-made structures, we can find ourselves remote from the reflective pull of nature. Armed with digital broadband, even country folk tend to feel in some degree God's apparent remoteness. To get back in touch with the living God we need to reach out to Him. Wisdom, truth and love seem to be the themes of readings today, and that love will lead to hope. The wisdom of God has been born before the beginning of time. Somehow wisdom is essential to God – and is presented very often as female. In celebrating the Trinity we celebrate and ask for wisdom, which comes from the heart of God. So this wisdom is the sort of wisdom that comes from love. Love is 'poured' into our hearts by the Spirit. Connected with love are qualities we would want to live by – courage and hope. These are the gifts of the Spirit as wisdom may be the gift of the Father. Jesus is presented by the gospel as the source of truth. His also is the truth of love, as his truth is best seen on the cross, in his self-sacrificing love.

Thus let us recognise that God is not something vague, he is tangible; he is not abstract but has a name: "God is love". His is not a sentimental, emotional kind of love but the love of the Father who is the origin of all life, the love of the Son who dies on the Cross and is raised, the love of the Spirit who renews human beings and the world. Thinking that God is love does us so much good, because it teaches us to love, to give ourselves to others as Jesus gave himself to us and walks with us. Jesus walks beside us on the road through life. Three Russian monks lived in a faraway Island. Nobody ever went there. However, one day their bishop decided to make a pastoral visit to learn more about their religious life. But when he arrived, he discovered that they did not know even the Lord's Prayer. So he spent all his time and energy teaching them the Our Father and then left them, satisfied with his pastoral visit. But when his small ship had left the island and was back in the open sea, he suddenly noticed the three hermits walking on the water – in fact they were running after the ship. When they approached it, they cried out, "Dear bishop we have forgotten the Lord's Prayer you taught us." The bishop, overwhelmed by what he was seeing and hearing asked them, "But dear brothers, how then do you pray?" They answered, "We just say, there are three of us and there are three of you, have mercy on us." The bishop, awestruck by their sanctity and simplicity said, "Go back to your island and be at peace."

The Most Holy Trinity is not the product of human reasoning but the face with which God actually revealed himself, not from the heights of a throne, but walking with humanity. The importance of this doctrine lies in this: we are made in the image of God, therefore, the more we understand God the more we can understand ourselves. God does not exist in isolated individualism but in a community of relationships. Thomas Edison, the inventor, once remarked: "We don't know what water is. We don't know what light is. We don't know what electricity is. We don't know what heat is. We have a lot of hypotheses about these things, but that is all. But we don't let our ignorance about these things deprive us of their use." The truth of that statement is real. Most of us do not know how an electric light works, how a mobile phone or a TV works, but this does not prevent us from using them. Let us try to apply the same common sense to our Faith in the doctrine of the Trinity. Today we do not praise God for a specific mystery, but for himself, "for his immense glory", as the liturgical hymn says. We praise him and we thank him because he is Love, and because he calls us to enter into the embrace of his communion which is eternal life.