



Fresco of the Holy Trinity and saints in glory, in the cupola of Chiesa di Santa Maria del Quartiere, by P.A. Bernabei, his brother Alessandro and G.M. Conti della Camera

Today we celebrate the feast of the Most Holy Trinity. The great truth about God in the Old Testament was that God communicated with human beings.

God was active in their history through the Spirit that spoke the divine word through the Law and the Prophets. The great truth about God in the New Testament is that God took on human form in Jesus. You could say that the Old Testament period is the era of God the Father, when the Father made himself known; the period when Jesus walked on earth was the great revelation of God the Son; and the period after the ascension of the risen Lord, the time we live in now, is the era of God the Holy Spirit.

The Church's doctrine of the Trinity tells us that God is, first of all, a community of three persons who love one another, who communicate so intimately with one another that three become one.

A genuine community is one that is open to others. It is not locked in on itself. The place we most experience the truth of the Trinity is at the table of the Eucharist when bread and wine, the gift of the Father in creation, are transformed into the life-giving body and blood of the Son through the action of the Holy Spirit.

Just as it took the Church many years to find a way of speaking about the Triune God, it takes us a lifetime to find a way to speak about God from our own experience of love, joy, fragility and brokenness. ■

## REFLECT

In his farewell speech to the disciples in John's Gospel Jesus makes a promise. He tells his disciples that even though he is going to leave them soon, they won't be left abandoned. God will send the Holy Spirit to be with them, to guide them, "to lead you to the complete truth".

The satnav is a wonderful invention. We have become so dependent on it to guide our journeys to unfamiliar destinations that we often wonder how we coped in the era before it was invented. The Holy Spirit is like our personal satnav. In trying to negotiate our way through life's journeys, God has given us a spiritual navigator. That guide is the Holy Spirit. When we don't know what to do or which way to turn, the Holy Spirit is there to point us in the right direction.

But, as with a sat nav, we must first tune into the Holy Spirit. That means being aware of the Spirit's presence with us all the time. We are never alone or lost. We have an inbuilt Holy Spirit navigation system – a most precious tool. We just have to turn it on.

Second, we must ask the Holy Spirit to help us find our way. Whenever we don't know which way to turn, or the right direction to take, we pray to the Holy Spirit, asking the Holy Spirit to be our guide. The Holy Spirit always points us to Jesus who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life".

That's the Spirit's job – to be our guide through life, to lead us eventually to that place where we will enjoy eternal life with the Holy Trinity for ever. ■

## LEARN

"The Most Holy Trinity is not the product of human reasoning; it is the face with which God himself revealed himself, not from the height of a cathedra, but walking with humanity. It is precisely Jesus who revealed the Father and promised us the Holy Spirit. God walked with his people in the history of the people of Israel and Jesus has always walked with us and has promised us the Holy Spirit, who is fire, who teaches us all the things that we do not know, who guides us from within, he gives us good ideas and good inspirations."

Pope Francis

## DO

Each time you make the Sign of the Cross, think about what you are doing and the words that you say.

## SAY

**"Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen."**

## PRAY

The Trinity is about relationship. Pray for a deepening of your relationship with those you love.



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Blest be God the Father,  
and the Only Begotten Son of God,  
and also the Holy Spirit,  
for he has shown us his merciful love.

**GLORIA**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

God our Father, who by sending into the world  
the Word of truth and the Spirit of  
sanctification  
made known to the human race your  
wondrous mystery,  
grant us, we pray, that in professing the true  
faith,  
we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal  
glory  
and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Exodus 34:4-6.8-9

A reading from the book of Exodus.

With the two tablets of stone in his hands,  
Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the  
early morning as the Lord had commanded  
him. And the Lord descended in the form of a  
cloud, and Moses stood with him there.

He called on the name of the Lord. The  
Lord passed before him and proclaimed,  
"Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and  
compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness  
and faithfulness." And Moses bowed down  
to the ground at once and worshipped. "If I  
have indeed won your favour, Lord," he said  
"let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they  
are a headstrong people, but forgive us our  
faults and our sins, and adopt us as your  
heritage."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Daniel 3:52-56

Response:

To you glory and praise for evermore.

1. You are blest, Lord God of our fathers. (R.)  
Blest your glorious holy name. (R.)
2. You are blest in the temple of your glory. (R.)  
You are blest on the throne of your  
kingdom. (R.)
3. You are blest who gaze into the depths. (R.)  
You are blest in the firmament of heaven. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings.

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

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
the God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 3:16-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,

the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Sanctify by the invocation of your name, we pray, O Lord our God, this oblation of our service, and by it make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Since you are children of God,  
God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,  
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May receiving this Sacrament, O Lord our God,  
bring us health of body and soul,  
as we confess your eternal holy Trinity and undivided Unity.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

"To regard the Mass as an obligation, a chore, and a boring one at that, to be done on a Sunday, is a hideous travesty of the truth. Mass may indeed be boring, and the dear priest's sermon an affliction to be patiently endured (or, of course, an intellectual treat to be discussed throughout the week), but we do not go to Mass for entertainment... To be taken to the self-offering of Jesus to the Father is what being a Catholic is about, it is what the Mass is about."

Sister Wendy Beckett

# NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: [canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)

Web Site: [www.stthomasofcanterbury.com](http://www.stthomasofcanterbury.com) St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: [anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Fr Sylvester Adeniyi CSSp Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): open Sunday mornings & weekdays (Times on Shop Door)

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: [tjherbst@gmail.com](mailto:tjherbst@gmail.com)

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

Office closed during the Covid-19 pandemic. You can still phone or email

## Sunday 7th June: The Most Holy Trinity

*Jn 3: 16-18*

**Live streaming of Mass at 9:30:  
Go to the parish website to watch it**

Wim Van Vuuren RIP (*Van Vuuren Family*)

11.00am: UCM Members & Families

**Monday 8th June: Feria** *Mt 5: 1-12*

12 noon: Gay O'Sullivan RIP (*Tony O'Sullivan*)

**Tuesday 9th June: St Columba** *Mt 5: 13-16*

12 noon: Frederick Prior (*Wedding Anniversary*)

**Wednesday 10th June: Feria** *Mt 5: 17-19*

12 noon: Stanley King RIP

**Thursday 11th June: St Barnabas, Apostle**

*Mt 5:20-26*

12 noon: Bridine McDermott RIP (*Noreen Egan*)

**Friday 12th June: Feria** *Mt 5: 27-32*

12 noon: John, Stasia & Christine RIP

**Saturday 13th June: St Anthony of Padua**

*Mt 5: 33-37*

12 noon: Welfare of Clark Family (*Martina*)

**Sunday 14th June: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)**

*Jn 6: 51-58*

9.30am: Elizabeth Verret RIP (*Helen Natrass*)

11.00am: Peter Avery RIP (*Joan & Joan*)

**THANK YOU** to everyone who continues to send in their Mass donations, weekly collections and other very generous payments to the parish funds. The Masses will get said - we are though limited to one a day (2 on Sunday) at the moment so it may take a little longer. Thank you too for all the generous donations to our SVP and to CAFOD. Please be assured they are being passed to the right people.

## PARISH MATTERS

### Letter to Prime Minister from Archbishop John Wilson

Archbishop John wrote to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, last week expressing his understanding of "a growing sense of dissatisfaction" particularly as our churches are not yet permitted to open where a growing number of retail outlet will soon open their doors. "Religious faith can help support people, both directly and indirectly, with respect to their wellbeing. Access to places of worship is integral to this."

Archbishop John also wrote to all MP's with constituencies in the Diocese. A copy of his letter to the Prime Minister can be [read by clicking here](#).

**FOODBANK:** We cannot take food & baby requisites at the moment but the Salvation Army in Canterbury are open between 10am & 12 noon each day for your donations.

### SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding – video conferencing platforms  
The Diocese has drawn attention to the use of platforms such as Zoom and Skype, by parish groups and the importance of the safety of young people and adults at risk. A helpful guidance document from the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service on their use is now available for use by any group in the parish, involved in using this technology.

Contact via e-mail: [safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk)

### Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Pat Gill, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Maurice Crosland, Barbara Brett, Hannelore Hall, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Anne Queenan, Bernie Fisher and Lucy Purbrick.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of:** Maria Bryant, Pamela Dodds Fr Gerry Flood, Roberto de Paco, John Todd, Carol Mary Kidby, Anna Hesketh, Tom Hodges, Rebecca Judge, Fr Francis Hartley, Fr Edmund Hartley and Gertraude Katherine Brock.

### Please pray for those whose first anniversaries are this month:

Tsige Buta, Michael Hagger and Agnes Natrass

One bishop said that the doctrine of the Trinity has been described variously as “the preacher’s nightmare” and “the ultimate rubric cube of theology”. The Trinity has been characterised in a number of ways, some good some bad, with varying degrees of reverence. The bishop went on to say that it is part of our daily prayer but we live our lives as if the Trinity doesn’t matter at all.

The Trinity helps us to understand who God is. When I worked in the diocese on Catechesis in the parishes, one of our key goals was to help Catechists in formation to discover what was their image of God. This is fundamental in our sharing faith with adults and children.

We might joke at the images of God that people have, such as God as a policeman ready to catch us out, God as a puppet master controlling our every move, God as in Heaven leaving us to our own devices, God as a judge making a list of all our misdemeanours, transgressions and sins and ready to send us to the other place if we don’t have sufficient good deeds to our name. But if we scratch the surface, it is surprising how many of us live with a distorted and inadequate image of God which means that is affected our live of prayer and the way we live our life.

The scripture readings for this feast day give us a deeper understanding of God.

In the reading from Exodus, God descends as a cloud and the Lord proclaimed himself as a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.

As Bishop Pilarczyk says, “He presents himself to Moses as Lord yet not distant and cold but near and loving, in spite of the sinfulness of the people with whom he had involved himself. He was a God who would continue to travel with the people he had chosen as his own”. God is not solitary. God is community. And we are very familiar with the final words of Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”. This is the clearest expression of the Trinity in the New Testament. It was written within 20 years of the Resurrection. Paul already could see God as Three in One, expressing grace, love and fellowship. It would be a long time before the Church was able to enunciate it’s belief about the Trinity in a clear and unequivocal way.

In the meeting between Jesus and Nicodemus, “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.”

What is asked of us is to believe in Jesus. What does it mean to believe? To believe is to recognise, to decide, to accept the love he offers us-and to offer it to one another.

In the end what really matters is not our theological understanding of God and our ability to explain the Trinity which is beyond explanation but what is essential for us is to have a real relationship of love with God who is Father, for he is the one whose love planned me, created me and upholds me. A relationship with the Son, whose love did not desert me in my sinfulness but who came to feed me, heal me and lead me. A relationship with the Spirit, who is my Sanctifier, who has raised me up to share in divine life, breathing in me, living in me and loving in me.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**

If you have a real need for this sacrament, Fr Sylvester and Fr 1 Anthony are willing to celebrate this with individuals face to face, with all necessary COVID-19 safety precautions, not in the church building or in the priest’s house but outside with social distancing rules. Please phone to arrange a suitable time.