

RELATIONSHIP of the HOLY TRINITY

31 May 2026 (Trinity Sunday)

Verse for the day: Colossians ch 1 verse 19 :

*For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,
and through him God reconciled everything to himself.*

READINGS

Old Testament Gn 1:26-28

New Testament Col 1:15-20

Gospel John 17:15-24

The concept of the Trinity - there being one God who is perfectly revealed in 3 Divine persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit is very difficult for us to comprehend. But with any growth into deeper understanding of the nature of God, the wonder of God's existence will always come with beautiful mysteries that are beyond our understanding.

Sometimes we try to find examples from our own life experience that might help but we will never be able to adequately explain or describe in words the depth of relationship that the Divine Trinity shows us.

I watched a boy recently as I was sitting waiting for a haircut. He had a rubric cube and was very quick and clever changing its colours and patterns, and I thought that there was something in the way the cube worked that might help understand a bit about the Trinity. It didn't matter how the boy changed the cube, making it all one colour, or creating alternate parallel lines of colour, or diagonal lines of different colour, or making it like a checkers board etc it was always the same cube. The message of the cube could change but not the cube itself. And also – the component parts of the cube were all connected with each other to make the whole. They were all integrated equally into the whole and the whole would not exist without each one.

Clearly, describing Father, Son and Holy Spirit as being one, is a description of an intimate relationship and we know this because Jesus himself said he and his father were one.¹ Sometimes we say the relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit is so close that their “with-ness” is “one-ness”.

The Apostle John leaves us with the no doubt that the overarching primary and fundamental trait in the character of God is love². He says that God is love. Love is made real when it is expressed and to be expressed there must be a relationship. Before creation the pre-existent intention of God was that the love binding Father, Son and Holy Spirit together in its beauty, warmth and perfect unity, was to be shared and

¹ John 10:30

² 1John 4:8 & 16

made real beyond the Godhead and so love created all the beauties of nature and the wonders of the universe and all its forms of life. But of all that love made, it was humanity only that benefited with the unique and special gift of being made in the image of God. We were created to be included in and become part of the relationship of love that binds the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You might have seen the demonstration where 4 chairs are put in a semi circle and the label Father, Son and Holy Spirit are placed on 3 of them. The way the chairs are positioned portrays a close community of relationship between the group all being seated equally together and communicating freely in their closeness, and the question is- whose name should be on the fourth chair? The answer is – *your name* !!

Listen to Jesus own prayers on our behalf:

*I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me Father and I am in you.....
May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!³*

The preposterous possibility that God's love for us would have us present in the heart of the Trinity seems a step too far but that is indeed the extent that God's love for us goes. God's desire for us to join the Trinity of love knows no ends

³ John 17:20-24

even to the death of God the Son on the cross.

Accepting this, helps us with our perennial search for how we as disciples should live in our own time, for buried deep in this realisation is a simple clue. Being made in the image of God means that the core and paramount trait of love that sustains the unity of the Godhead should be the core and paramount trait that we are known for in how we live.

We spend a lot of time on the question of “how are we to live as followers of Christ?” We go to conferences, we read books, we engage in devotional programmes, we attend retreats, we study theology. In all these endeavours, we first and foremost should be illuminated by the insight that carrying God’s image means we ought to live in love and unity with each other. That should be our defining trait.

Remember Jesus said

This is how people will know you are my disciples - for the love you have one for another⁴

I have found it helpful to think of triune character of the God as bringing 3 to ensure that Divine love is revealed and made known to humanity; three initiatives of God driven for one and same goal, and that is to bring us home to the centre of love that we were created to participate in.

The **first** initiative is of God the Father – the creator. God the Father spoke creation into material existence. The beauty of

⁴Jn 13:34

and the magnificence and expansive reach of nature in the universe is too wonderful to comprehend because of its genius. Its artistry, its renewals and never ending cycles of seasons that replenish and sustain, and the astonishing miracles of the carbon cycle and photosynthesis and the perpetual sustaining of all manner of life in niche environments, all dovetail in to the perfection of balance that keeps putting the beauty of the creator's Divine love before us. The crescendo is in the creation of humanity – God implanting His fingerprint within our own very selves so that we can have the joy of living and moving and having our being in the world of beauty that surrounds us. How important it is for us to understand that even in our fallenness, as the father in the prodigal son parable saw, God the Divine father sees us as the most beautiful beloved treasure of his heart.

The **second** initiative is of God the Son – the Saviour. God the Son was to come to us in human form so as to make our understanding of divine love easier. Jesus was always God amongst us in human form. Jesus the Son, is a gracious initiative on the part of the Godhead to help us believe by showing us the love of God in human expression.

God the Son rubbed shoulders with the ugliness that is at the heart of sin. In the cross he was subjected to the most inhumane torture that was known at the time. In the Cross the darkest plan of evil was unleashed, but in the Cross, the consequences of sin – the holocaust of eternal death and separation from God, was defeated and rendered powerless.

Rising from death Jesus showed that God's love was victorious and that we need not continue to live as if defeated. In the resurrection of Jesus, I like to think of God clapping with delight... And I imagine the Holy Spirit being elated and rushing to meet us (Pentecost) and to scoop us up, and empower us for the journey of our new direction and comfort us and remind us of all the promises that we are and always were loved and are forever safe.

So the **third** initiative is of God the Holy Spirit the Comforter, who blesses us with his presence and authenticates Jesus to us in our lives today and dwells with us and in us so we are not left alone.

God's Spirit reaches us from the heavenly place and in our human journey with its ups and downs, and washes over us with cleansing and healing and embraces us in perfect acceptance bringing us into the holy relationship of the Trinity.

In the Trinity of love we are free to turn around and come home and to hide no more in guilt and shame. The work of the Father Son and Holy Spirit means that every piece of ground we stand on, every minute that we are alive, every molecule of air we breathe – is sacred, because it was created by the God the Father in love because God the Son has brought us back to God, and because God the Holy Spirit looks after us as we journey in life, keeping us safe, empowering us to live in in thankfulness and worship – and strengthening us to love God with all of our heart mind soul and strength.

Stan T.