

Trinity Sunday

Belief in the Trinity finds its roots in the first Christian experience in Jesus. His life, death and resurrection revealed to them one God who exists in a relationship of three persons.

In the second reading today, Paul tells the Corinthians to greet one another with the kiss of peace and offers the following prayer:

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

Paul calls on the Trinity in his plea for unity between the arguing Corinthians and the apostles. In this he reflects the prayer of Jesus that all may be one as he and the Father and the Spirit are one. The Trinity is a sign of unity, a sign of mutual love, life and communion of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To live the life of the Trinity is to live in peace, harmony and love with one another.

At the beginning of the mass, the priest welcomes us with the words of St Paul (above), and together in unity we respond .. *And with your spirit.*

We celebrate the Life of the Trinity together. In the Trinity, the activity of the Father is creation; the Son, the redemption; the Holy Spirit, revelation.

Whenever we partake in the activities of creating, healing and revealing, we too are living the life of the Trinity.

- What are the different ways of greeting/welcoming others that would help them to feel at home in our church, family, communities etc.?
- How can we express unity within family, parish, school, community ?
- How do we welcome the children and their families in this ministry?

- I/we believe in the Father who
- I/we believe in the Son who
- I/we believe in the Holy Spirit who



Catechist Reflection

The Nearness of God

*an extract from **The Peace of Jesus**
by Joseph G. Donders*



*"Kia inu kau ahau,
If I could just drink"*

Te Pu Akonga Whakaponō Katorika ki Tamaki

Religious Education Team

Catholic Diocese of Auckland

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/religious-education

Suggested Approach with Children

11/6/17

Aim to arrive at a simple understanding of the personalities of God i.e. Trinity

Feeling into....

Invite the children to reflect on the meaning of the word **Trinity**
Trinity means something that is made up of three, and today we give thanks for the three persons of God.

- **Who are the three persons of God, do you know?**

(if they need prompting, slowly make the Sign of the Cross)

God the FATHER	created the world and everything in it. God loves each and everyone of us very, very much and sent his Son, Jesus, to save us.
God the SON	is Jesus made human. There are many stories in the Good News which tell us how loving and caring Jesus was to all people. He taught us how we should live and which path we should follow to find our way to heaven.
God the HOLY SPIRIT	takes many forms: wind, fire or dove. Invisible but powerful, the Spirit fills us with God's life.

- **Do you remember what we spoke about last week?**
(how the Holy Spirit came to the disciples (Pentecost) and gave them the courage to go out and spread the Good News)

God shares Himself with us through the three persons of the Trinity.
We share the **LOVE** of God the Father the **GOODNESS** of Jesus, the Son and the **FRIENDSHIP** of the Holy Spirit
We are freely given... love, goodness and friendship.

- **should we keep these gifts to ourselves?**
- **who else can we give it to and how?**
- **Who are the three persons of God?**

Meeting with.... CATECHISTS PLEASE NOTE there are 2 readings to choose from today.
The Gospel is from Matthew instead of John

Read 2 Corinthians 13: 11 ~ 13 and/or Matthew 28: 16 ~ 20

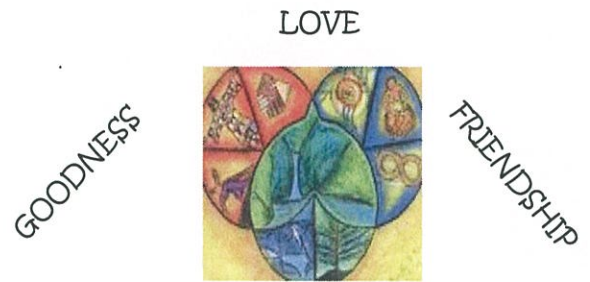


A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians....

adapted for children

Goodbye my friends.
Try to do better and pay attention to what

I have said. Try to get along and live peacefully
with each other. Now I pray that God who gives
love and peace, will be with you.
Give each other a warm greeting.
All of God's people send their greetings.
I pray that the Lord Jesus Christ
will bless you and be kind to you!
May God bless you with his love,
and may the Holy Spirit
join all your hearts together.



A reading from the Gospel of Matthew....

It was after the resurrection.
Jesus' friends made their way to the mountain
where Jesus had arranged to meet them.
Jesus came up to them and said:

All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me.
Go then and make all people
children of God,
baptising them in
the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Teach them to do all the things
I have told you.
Know that I am with you always,
yes even to the end of time.

**In the name
of the Father,
and of
the Son,
and of the
Holy Spirit**

Responding to....

See **Trinity: The Personalities of God (included in this resource)**

Conclude this session by saying the following prayer together

Prayer.... 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

Trinity.....The Personalities of God

God the Father (*Creator/Parent*)

Invite the children to share their understanding of the role of parents/ caregivers ...what do they do?

from their responses focus on the ones which are closest to life giver/creator

Share when we say God the Father we know that the personality of God the father is one of parent or creator, who has given us the world and loves us very much.

God the Son (*Saviour, Liberator, Redeemer*)

Invite the children to share ideas on how they would like to make the world a better place.....can you name people who have tried to do this?
e.g. Mother Teresa, Fred Hollows, St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, St Vincent de Paul Society, City Mission, Caritas etc.,

Share Jesus shows us another side of God. He said I am of God. So we know that God is human too. Jesus came into the world to show us the love of God. To help us live loving, caring lives. To love our neighbour, our world and ourselves.
Jesus helps us to become free from fears and attitudes that can mess up our lives. Jesus is our Saviour, Liberator and Redeemer.

God the Holy Spirit (*Friend, Sustainer, Leader, Guide*)

Invite the children to share what qualities they believe makes a good (true) friend what do they need to do? who do they need to be?

Share Jesus told his friends that when he was no longer with them, he would send a friend and guide so that they (we) would never be alone.
This personality of God brings us together, creates unity and helps us be aware of the good in others.

Catechist Reflection....

The Nearness of God

*an extract from **The Peace of Jesus***

by Joseph G Donders

The feast of the Holy Trinity
seems to be too dogmatic
to be any feast at all.

We are not commemorating
an event,
it seems,
or a fact,
but a truth,
an article of our faith.

It is often said that this
3=1 and 1=3
is a tremendous mystery
that nobody can understand.
I doubt that.

It is often said that this
3=1 and 1=3
is a test in submissiveness:
either you believe the impossible,
or you become impossible
in the eyes of God.

I doubt that too.

It is often said that this
3=1 and 1=3
is something so difficult
that we do better simply to believe
and not try to understand at all.
And even that I doubt.

I don't believe
that trinity is so difficult.
I don't believe that trinity
is so complicated.
In fact trinity makes
things with God
easier for us.

If we would not know
about trinity,
what would we know
about God
in fact?

God would be like
a far off star
in the dark blue
of the ice cold sky.
We would know
that star to be hot,
but its heat would
be so distant

that there
would be only
the coolness for us.

We would know
that star
to be light,
but its light would be
so far away
that we would see it
as a star,
as the pinpoint light
of a flashlight with exhausted
batteries in the darkness
of our night.

But now
with this information
about a Father,
about a Son,
and about a Spirit,
God
gets
very, very, very near
indeed.

God is our father,
God is our mother,
the source and origin
of our existence.

Our human life
bears the traces
of that origin
of God's personalities.

And God is not only
our parents.
God is also the one
who told us
how to live our
human lives,
to what survival rules
to stick,
and how to behave,
just like good parents
inform their children
about those issues.

God did not shout
those commandments at us,
like a preacher,
who shouts at his people
without knowing too much
about them,
without even being willing
Really to participate
in their lives

or to do what he orders others
to do.

Oh no!

We cannot say to God,
giving us those rules
and possibilities:

But, do you really know
what our life is about,
you over there in your heaven?

We can not
because in God's Son,
Jesus,
God participated in our lives,
as a real example
of how it should be lived
and suffered.

God experienced our difficulties.

God ate our bread,
the sweet and the bitter.

God identified with us,
with our life
and our death
completely.

And God did not participate
in that life of ours
as a Little Sister of
Charles de Foucauld*
identifies with the poor
of Kenya
or a Brother from Taize
or a sister of Charity.

Those brothers and sisters
do something very Christian
by giving an often heroic example
to the rich and poor alike.

God went further than that.
There remains always a difference
between those sisters, those brothers,
and the poor.

If only because the former
opted freely for the poverty
of the latter.

The latter could not avoid it
by any choice
at all.

That is one of the reasons
that a distance remains
they live very near and yet
beside each other.

With God,
with Jesus
it was not like that,
because from Jesus
his divine life,
his Spirit,
his all

flowed over in them,
flowed over in us.

This trinity feast
does not isolate us from God,
it does not alienate us from God
at all,
on the contrary..
it brings God near,
nearer than anything and anyone
in this world.

One day
Jesus summed it up.
He was standing in the temple
surrounded by very, very many
and all at once
he started to shout,
either because of the importance
of what he was going to say,
or, because of his enthusiasm.

He proclaimed with a loud voice
how he had come from
the Father, and how he
therefore was full of divine life
and he shouted to all
*Come to me!
Drink from me!
and out of you will flow
divine life,
the life of the Spirit.*

Brothers and sisters,
isn't that something?
Isn't that all?
Isn't that
the beginning and
the end,
all in one?

for personal/group reflection:

- *what does Trinity mean for you?*

God experienced our difficulties.
God ate our bread, the sweet
and the bitter. God identified with us,
with our life
- *of what benefit is understanding
the above quote and the teaching
of the Trinity in my life?*

My/ our prayer today is