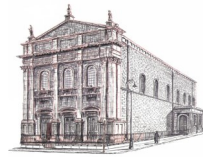




PARISH OF ST. AGATHA
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ARCHBISHOP DERMOT FARRELL’S HOLY TRINITY HOMILY EXTRACTS.

St. Paul never met the earthly Jesus, but through his encounter with the risen Lord he had experienced God as grace and communion; in short, as love. Paul speaks today of something he had come to know first-hand: “the Spirit we received is not the spirit of slaves, bringing fear into our lives again.” The spirit that is in every person’s heart—whether we recognize it or not—is God’s very self, Lord and Giver of Life as we pray in the Creed, present in our hearts, and in our lives, making us “heirs of God and coheirs with Christ” bringing us into a living relationship that is both with God as Father and with Christ who is now our brother. The root of our faith lies in the response of our father Abraham and in Moses who experienced the mystery and call of God in the burning bush. **Bishop Tertullian of the early Church, imagined the Trinity as a plant, with the father as the root, the Son as the shoot breaking forth into the world, and the Spirit as that which fills the earth with flower and fruit.**

In Jesus, God—the same God who called Abraham and Moses—gives himself to us in new ways. In Jesus—the mystery of God’s inner life is made known to us: “The one who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). God remains a mystery: but we have been given a glimpse—and more than a glimpse of God. Jesus is the true image of the Father. He came to show us by word and action what God is like: that God’s life is not confined to the eternal self-giving of the Father to Son, but that God’s very gift of Godself is given to us. God gives himself to us in love, so that we may be, so that we may have life, that so our life would be God’s life. In other words, that we would become divine. God’s divine life is not confined to God, and it is not confined to us. By the power of God’s Holy Spirit we participate in divine life through communion with others. God’s Holy Spirit rules through justice, peace, charity, love, joy, moderation, kindness, generosity, freedom, compassion, reconciliation, holiness, humility, wisdom, and truthfulness. It is because of the doctrine of the Trinity, that we can point to the love between people and say quite literally, “There is God.” “Where there is charity and love, there is God.”

Our faith in the Trinity is about a God who is *for us*, who lived as a blessing for the ‘little ones’ and mourners, confronted the power of evil, entered with compassion into the world of human suffering, broke down the barriers between human weakness and divine holiness and reconciled enemies. If Jesus—the very face of God, and the fullness of God’s presence— is “with us” what should we be doing? One way to recognize God’s presence among us is live in harmony and communion with every creature in our common home, eat with modern-day lepers and other outcasts, pray constantly, respond to God in faith, hope and love, eventually becoming unrestrictedly united with God. How much more is this necessary in these difficult pandemic days?

May we experience the grace, love and communion of God ... and put flesh on it for those around us, especially those isolated and those in need. May the God who is with us—Spirit, Son, and Father—show us how to be with each other. “And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.”

THE NATURE OF GOD REVEALED IN THE HOLY TRINITY

Everything in Christianity is sourced from the Blessed Trinity, in whose Name, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, welcomed us into the Family of the Church in Baptism. The Trinity (group of three) means the Father is **Love**, the Son is **Grace** and the Holy Spirit is **Holy Communion, which is the spiritual bond of their Unity.** The *Father is the Word who utters the Truth, and the Truth is Jesus Christ*, whose active Presence in the world is the *Holy Spirit who gives life to the Holy Church.* God is Three Persons of One substance. That is why we use the term *con-substantial*, when we profess the Sunday Creed. To help us understand the mystery in human terms, let us look at a man who is first born into the world as a son, then later he becomes a father and later again, he becomes a **grandfather.** He becomes **three persons but is still one equal substance** and nature. The spirit of love for his family is sourced from his **one heart**, but is communicated in different ways throughout the history of his lifetime.

CRUCIFIED GOD’S OPEN HEART

God the Father, loves us with His open Heart on the Cross, in the Person of Jesus. From His Sacred Heart, which is the Tabernacle of the Church, poured out the Life-Giving Holy Spirit, denoted by Water, and His Blood, denoting Life. Because blood gives life. These are the **essential** Sacraments of the Church. **The Church exists not to condemn us but to Save us - from Hell.** That is why Jesus is call the Saviour. Jesus tells us today (Jn 3:18), that *whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son.* That is - to believe in the Truth. Many Catholics today, *refuse to believe* in the name of the Risen Jesus called Eucharist. The **Burning Bush** spoke to Moses in the Old Testament, which prefigured the **Eucharist**, because in today’s world, it is the Eucharist who becomes visible and communicates with us today. The Fire consumed the burning bush without destroying it, just like the Eucharist consumes us today, with the Fire of God’s Love and Mercy, which gives us New Life.

THE SPIRIT CAN PHYSICALLY ACCESS ALL HEARTS

The Spirit’s Mission is to sanctify (make holy) the Members of the Church. God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. We worship the Holy Trinity in Mass all the time by repeating prayers Three times to Him. For example, we begin by recognising the Trinity when we bless ourselves; *In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.* The Priest greets the Congregation acknowledging the Holy Trinity again, when he says; *the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship (or communion) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* Asking for Mercy we say three times; **Lord have Mercy, Christ have Mercy, Lord have Mercy.** In the Confiteor (Penitential Act), we confess three times to the Triune God that our sins are committed; **Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.** Entering into the Consecration, we worship each Person of the Trinity with a praise of *Holy*, three times; **Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.** The Priest says three times to Him the Blessed Trinity with the great doxology; *Through Him, With Him and In Him.* And again we ask favour three times; **Lamb of God... Lamb of God... and Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us and grant us Peace.** It gives us a sense of Trinity.

LOVE IS THE BADGE OF ALL CHRISTIANS

Today’s Solemnity Feast, helps us to enter into the identity of God, which leads us to contemplate and worship the divine life of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is a life of communion and perfect love. We also recognise in the Trinity the **Model of the Church**, in which we are called to love each other as Jesus loved us. **Love is the concrete sign that demonstrates faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** And love is the badge of the Christian, as Jesus told us: *By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another* (Jn 13:35). St. Paul (Eph 4:3-6), teaches us to “make every effort to preserve the unity which has the Spirit as its origin and peace as its binding force”. The Unity of the Holy Trinity is Love. A Love shared with us, and in turn, for us to share with each other.

OUR LADY OF THE HOLY TRINITY PROTECTS US

Entering into Holy Communion and Belief in the Triune God must begin here on earth, by practicing our Faith and by imitating the Trinity, who is a **God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and in faithfulness** (Ex 34:4-6,8-9). Pray Three Hail Mary’s everyday to **Our Lady of the Holy Trinity** asking her to guide our hearts in Holiness, Grace and Purity. Ask and she will Help. **Mary is the Daughter of God the Father, the Mother of God the Son and the Spouse of God the Holy Spirit.** God bless, Fr. Brendan.