

PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAY AT 7.30PM IN THE PARISH CENTRE

LOOKING AT LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL



Trinity Sunday

June 15th

2025

Rathfarnham
Lectio Divina
Group

Please join us on
Thursday 7.30 pm
in the Parish Centre to
reflect on the Gospel
of the week.

John 16:12 Jesus said: “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Throughout the centuries, theologians have tried diligently to get to know the mystery of God more intimately. They use different conceptual formulas to describe the relationships that bind and differentiate the divine persons within the Trinity. It is a genuine effort born, no doubt, out of the love and desire for God.

Jesus, however, does not take this approach.

Based on his own experience of God,

he invites his followers to relate with confidence to God as Father,
to follow faithfully his footsteps as the incarnate Son of God,
and to allow themselves to be guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

This is how he teaches us to be open to the holy mystery of God.

JOSÉ A PAGOLA—Following in the Footsteps of Jesus, year C

We should not imagine that the idea of the Trinity was something that the early church came to easily. The first Christians were Jews and believed very much in God as one, so that they had to grapple with the identity of Jesus that had been revealed to them. This they did, firmly believing that the Spirit was guiding them into the amazing truth about God. They came to see that God’s own inner life had been revealed to them as Creator, Saviour and Sanctifier and that as believers they were being asked in some way to live out the life of love that had been made known to them. The Gospel of John is a witness to this whole process.

Reflection

The gospel for today tells us that the Spirit of truth will lead us to the complete truth about God. Happily for us the gospel does not say when we will come to the complete truth. Perhaps this is because the evangelist knows full well that the God revealed by Jesus is not just a mystery to be solved. Every generation of Christians must make the effort to see where and how the God who creates, saves and sanctifies is speaking to us.

At the beginning of the third millennium it may well be that She is screaming at us through a hole in the ozone layer and in the voices of the hungry and oppressed who suffer so terribly in God’s beautiful world.

SEAN GOAN—Let the Reader Understand, Year C

Thought for the day

“Silence is the language God speaks and everything else is a bad translation” is variously attributed. Whoever penned it, it strikes a chord on the feast of the Holy and Undivided Trinity. As we stand before the absolute mystery of God, one and three, transcendent and immanent, greater than our hearts and yet closer to us than we are to ourselves, wordless prayer is fitting. And yet...the Mysterious Silence has been broken, if not by “mere” words then certainly by the Word made flesh, whose Spirit has been poured into our hearts.

KIERAN O’MAHONY — tarsus.ie

COMMENTS ON THE TEXT

The Holy Spirit is central to the religious imagination of the Fourth Gospel, being the link between God, the believer and Jesus. Here are some of the important teachings of the gospel:

- Jesus has the Holy Spirit: Jn 1:32-33
- Jesus' death "releases" the Holy Spirit: Jn 19:30
- The spirit is the special gift of the Risen Lord: Jn 20:22-23
- Believers are reborn in the Spirit: Jn 3:5-8
- The Spirit / Advocate has three tasks (to be with us, teach us, and witness to Jesus) Jn 14:16,26; 15:26

Glory and glorification do not refer in this Gospel to honour, or reputation etc. Instead, glory is a category that has to do with revelation, precisely the revelation of God's compassionate love through the lifting up of Jesus on the cross and into the resurrection. "He will glorify me" needs to be translated as follows: the function of the Holy Spirit is to bring into the hearts of believers that very love between Jesus and the Father, so that God's compassionate love, revealed through the Pascal Mystery, may live in the centre of our being. In that exhilarating sense, "he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

KIERAN O'MAHONY – tarsus.ie

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. Wisdom about life comes slowly and sometimes painfully. Hearing the 'right' answer at the 'wrong' time does not help us. We need to be ready and open to receiving the truth if it is to have any impact. Perhaps you can recall some occasions when it was the 'right' time for you to learn a truth about life. Remember your experiences of growing in understanding and truth.
2. Perhaps the Spirit guided you through the words of someone close to you, or through the words and actions of people you read about or saw on TV. Or maybe understanding came to you when praying or reflecting on your life. Remember and give thanks for the people who have helped you to greater wisdom on your journey through life.
3. Wisdom is handed on from person to person, and from generation to generation, within families, within communities, etc. Are there any wisdom sayings that you cherish from what has been handed on to you?

JOHN BYRNE – Intercom

Recently Deceased pray for
him

As Jesus told his disciples, not everything is revealed at once. The Spirit is still at work among us like a dynamic activity or dance. The beauty of creation is constantly unfolding in front of our eyes. Thanks to the gift of science, we are discovering amazing things about our planet, our universe, our bodies, and our minds. As humanity, as Church and as individuals our journey continues, with the Spirit gradually unveiling God's message for our place and time. We don't yet have all the answers about this beautiful life. Our task is to listen, and to be awake to the many ways God speaks to us and calls us into the life of God.

The Spirit is that life-giving force that animates our world. She inspires and energises. Where do you see this energy and creativity in your own life and in your community?

TRÍONA O'DONNELL & JANE MELLETT - Go Deeper

CELEBRATING THE TRINITY

In this feast we celebrate an aspect of our faith. It is a celebration, therefore, not an academic exercise. Meditating on the gospel texts chosen for the feast helps us enter into it. It is particularly important to do this for the Trinity, because this doctrine is usually experienced as a mathematical sum to be learnt, rather than good news to be celebrated.

SCRIPTURE PRAYERS

Lord, as parents and teachers we tend to become self-important
– we think we have to tell our charges everything they need to know,
– preserve them from making mistakes,
– prepare them for every eventuality.
Help us to be humble like Jesus,
knowing that no matter how much we do for people, there are always things that we still have to say to them, but these things would be too much for them at this point in their lives.
We need not be anxious about that, because when the time comes,
the Spirit of truth will come and will lead them to the complete truth.

Lord, forgive us that as followers of Jesus,
we think we have a monopoly, or even a first option, on the truth.
Teach us to welcome truth wherever we find it;
remind us that Jesus was not possessive of the truth;
he knew that everything you have is his,
and so everything the Spirit would tell the world until the end of time
would be taken from what was his.
Lord, noble ideals are handed on to us by great people who went before us.
When we strive for those ideals, we glorify them,
since all we do is taken from what is theirs.

MICHEL DE VERTEUIL