

Trinity

- Loneliness, real 'aleness' is a scourge in contemporary society.
- I'm not referring to solitude that is an essential condition for healthy reflection on life, but rather on the aleness that is alienating from others.
- To be cut off from family & friends, quarantined from normal human contact, as we have in recent times, is dehumanising, & Facebook or Twitter isn't the answer, even though during this time of social distancing, they have become the norm for being connected to others – they are never really enough.
- We know that many are connected in cyberspace but are desperately lonely.
- Loneliness *is* dehumanising, & the reason lies in today's feast day.
- We can blame God for this.
- We are made in the image & likeness of God, so, our image of God will greatly affect the way in which we conceive of being fully human.
- If we think of God as solitary, totally One, then we may think of the best human being as being a person totally autonomous, self-sufficient, not dependent on others.
- If we think of God as loving relationship, continuous communion, then clearly the ideal human being is one who lives in relationship with others, living in a companionable manner.
- So what is the truth of the matter? What does God 'look' like?
- 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 & differentiate the divine persons within the Trinity.
- It is a genuine effort born, no doubt, out of the love & 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 a loving, compassionate & nurturing parent, as Father, to follow faithfully his footsteps as the incarnate Son of God, & to allow themselves to be guided & inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- This is how he teaches us to be open to the holy mystery of God.
- First of all, Jesus calls his followers to live as children of a God who is close to them, who is good & lovable, & whom we can all call upon as a loving Father.
- What characterizes this Father is not his power & might, but his goodness & infinite compassion - it is God who declares by God's way of creating us and being with us, that no one is alone.
- We all have God as a Father who understands us, loves us & forgives us as no one else ever could.
- Jesus reveals to us that this Father has a project very close to his heart, born of God's love: to build together with all his children a more humane, fraternal, just & inclusive world - Jesus calls it *"the kingdom of God"* & he invites all to join this project of the Father who seeks a life of greater justice & dignity for all, beginning with his poorest, most vulnerable & needy children.

- At the same time Jesus also appeals to his followers to trust in him: *"Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe in me also"*.
- He is the Son of God, the living image of his Father.
- His words & actions show us how much the Father of all loves us.
- So he invites everyone to follow him.
- He will teach us how to live with trust & gentleness in the service of the project of the Father.
- With his group of followers, Jesus wants to form a new family in which all seek to do the will of the Father.
- The legacy he wishes to leave on the earth is this: a movement of brothers & sisters at the service of the most vulnerable & helpless.
- That family will be the symbol & heir of the new world the Father wants.
- For that to happen, they will need to receive the Spirit that is the love of God, the breath of life the Father & the Son share, the strength, the drive, & the life-giving energy that will make the followers of Jesus his witnesses & partners at the service of the grand project of the Trinity.
- We are made in God's image & likeness, or rather, we are made in God's image; our calling & fulfillment is to grow in God's likeness.
- We can talk about God because God is a bit like us.
- The very best of our human qualities illustrate what God is like, or rather, in the best of what it means to be human, we resemble God in human form.
- So, the mystery of the Trinity is more than an esoteric doctrine of faith.
- It is a model for the Christian lifestyle, but not only that - it's the model of the way we as human beings could & should live with one another.
- We are called to bring Mystery of God & his project of the kingdom amid the mayhem of human coexistence.
- We are given a capacity to copy in our lives the love found in the Trinity.
- God invites us to be part of the divine love, to enter into the very Trinity itself.
- In practical terms it's impossible to profess belief in the Trinity, on the one hand, & then work at things which pull the human family apart, on the other.
- It is scandalous to hold to the Father, Son & Holy Spirit & be known as racist, bigoted & sexist, to not care about refugees, or those who die each day of starvation or to be the only Commonwealth nation that has not established a treaty with its indigenous people.
- We cannot keep signing ourselves in the name of a Triune God & then work hard at getting richer & more secure while the rest of humanity grow poorer & lack the necessities for human dignity.
- From our own experience, we know that God creates, because we are immersed in creation; we know that God saves, because we have been freed from the bondage of our own demons.
- Our experience tells us that God is with us, and that God is for us.
- Everything that we know about God declares that God is passionately in love with us – may we live out that love in the ways we live with one another.