

27th May 2018 (Trinity Sunday, Year B)

Deut 4:32-34,39-40; Psalm 32(33):4-6,9,18-20,22; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 28:16-20.

Go, make disciples; ... baptise them; ... teach them

Last week, as we concluded the season of Easter, we celebrated the feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the new People of God. This feast marks the birth day of the new People of God; the Body of Christ has now come of age. We have received the Holy Spirit, God who dwells within us, and as People of God we have received our great commission to go and give witness.

Perhaps one might say that today is the first Sunday in the life of this new People of God, and we start with celebrating a very important mystery in our life: God who is Father, Son and Spirit. The book of Genesis reminds us that all of humanity is created in the image and likeness of God and we therefore share in the life of the Trinity. Moreover, as Christians, through Baptism we are reborn in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit and many times during our day we remind ourselves that whatever we do, we carry it out in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit. This is a great mystery we are invited to participate in every day of our life.

Although we may try to do mental gymnastics and attempt to understand the meaning of the Trinity, we need to accept that the reality of God is a mystery that we can never fully understand; we are called to live and rather than understand the Trinity. (If I could understand God then I could in some way claim control over him and therefore he ceases to be God!)

Yet our belief in God as Trinity calls us to mission. The gospel according to John reminds us that '... God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, ...' (3:16). The Father sends his Son to talk to us in the Father's name so that we can all come to believe. Furthermore, before Jesus returned to the Father (Ascension Sunday), Jesus promised us that the Father and he will send us the Spirit, to be always with us and live in us (Pentecost Sunday). God is always Emmanuel – God-with-us! (Mt 1:23)

Jesus now sends us, the new People of God, to go out and proclaim this new life in the Trinity. Jesus tells us to go, make disciples, baptise them and teach them the good news. Every call has a mission; we are called to participate in the life of God, yet we are not called for ourselves, we are called to make God known.

God IS love; the very life and being of God is love! We are invited to live and participate in this love that is God and to share it with the world around us. In his great love God is merciful and forgiving and it is this message of God's mercy and forgiveness that our world today needs us to share. Every time we make the sign of the cross, we remind ourselves that we exist and are baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, and this should be the sign that reminds us of the need to be welcoming, loving, merciful and forgiving. In this way we also give glory and praise to God, Father, Son and Spirit.

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