

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Blest be God the Father,  
and the Only Begotten Son of God,  
and also the Holy Spirit,  
for he has shown us his merciful love.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Proverbs 8:22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.  
The Wisdom of God cries aloud:  
The Lord created me when his purpose first unfolded,  
before the oldest of his works.  
From everlasting I was firmly set,  
from the beginning, before earth came into being.  
The deep was not, when I was born,  
there were no springs to gush with water.  
Before the mountains were settled,  
before the hills, I came to birth;  
before he made the earth, the countryside,  
or the first grains of the world's dust.  
When he fixed the heavens firm, I was there,  
when he drew a ring on the surface of the deep,  
when he thickened the clouds above,  
when he fixed fast the springs of the deep,  
when he assigned the sea its boundaries – and the waters will not invade the shore –  
when he laid down the foundations of the earth,  
I was by his side, a master craftsman,

delighting him day after day,  
ever at play in his presence,  
at play everywhere in his world,  
delighting to be with the sons of men.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 8:4-9

Response:

How great is your name, O Lord our God,  
through all the earth!

1. When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,  
the moon and the stars which you arranged,  
what is man that you should keep him in mind,  
mortal man that you care for him? (R.)
2. Yet you have made him little less than a god;  
with glory and honour you crowned him,  
gave him power over the works of your hand,  
put all things under his feet. (R.)
3. All of them, sheep and cattle,  
yes, even the savage beasts,  
birds of the air, and fish  
that make their way through the waters. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

Romans 5:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. But that is not all we can boast about; we can boast about our sufferings. These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the God who is, who was, and who is to come.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 16:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me since all he tells you

will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: All he tells you will be taken from what is mine."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
*(all bow during the next three lines)*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Sanctify by the invocation of your name, we pray, O Lord our God, this oblation of our service, and by it make of us an eternal offering to you.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Since you are children of God,  
God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,  
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May receiving this Sacrament, O Lord our God,  
bring us health of body and soul,  
as we confess your eternal holy Trinity and undivided Unity.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

(JOHN 16: 12-15)



Ceiling fresco of the Holy Trinity in Chiesa di Santa Croce by Giovanni Maria Conti della Camera (1614-1670)

The early part of John, chapter 16, is quite tender and emotional as Jesus gathers his disciples for the final time. It is worth taking the time to read these lines to try and get a sense of the atmosphere that was present in this interaction.

There was fear or even sadness perhaps, given the great ministerial journey that had taken place with Jesus was now coming to an end. The context to today's Gospel verses rests in Jesus' statement to the disciples, "I am returning to the Father". The great relationship of the New Testament is at the heart of this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. Indeed, the brief lines we read today state that there is so much more to say about God and his love, but such information would be too much to take at this particular time. So the promise of Jesus is to send the Spirit of truth who will offer wisdom and guidance during the difficult times to come. For earlier in verse 2 of this chapter, Jesus states, "the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering service to God." The sending of the Spirit into the lives of the disciples and into our own lives is God's grace alive and active. ■

### REFLECT

The life of the Trinity permeates everything we do as church, whether it's a prayer group gathering on a Monday night, a St Vincent De Paul meeting on a Friday morning or a baptismal celebration after mass on a Sunday. The Trinity becomes reflected in the missionary activity of our parish communities from morning to night.

Bishop Robert Barron states that, as a lecturer in university, he is only too aware of the "highly developed technical language" surrounding the Trinity. All the great theologians over the centuries have wrestled with its meaning and often in trying to communicate that meaning, they leave the student or the listener even more confused than before.

The danger however is that we simplify the doctrine of the Trinity too much in our preaching and teaching. Suffice it to remember that every time we bless

ourselves, we are invoking the name of the Trinity. When we participate in a sacrament for example, the first step is to put ourselves into the mystery of the Trinity. We place ourselves into the love that connects the Father and the Son.

We can probably get the sense through our work for the church and our participation in the sacraments that the Trinity is not something that is static. Today's Gospel portrays the Spirit as a guide and the bearer of wisdom and knowledge. Trinity Sunday therefore is less about trying to understand the complicated theological theories that surround a doctrine and more to do with every member of the church being summoned to mission and action. Today could be the perfect opportunity for a parish to re-evaluate its missionary activity and work. It could also be a time where we take a personal look at our own faith lives. Do I see myself being part of the dynamic life of the Trinity or have I become static? ■

### LEARN

"The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 237)

### DO

Think of concrete ways you can go out to your community and bring the love and tenderness of the Trinity to the lives of others. No action is too small.

### SAY

"It is not easy to find a name that will suitably express so great an excellence, unless it is better to speak in this way: the Trinity, one God, of whom are all things, through whom are all things, in whom are all things."  
(St Augustine)



Stained glass window depicting doctrine of the Holy Trinity in Latin