

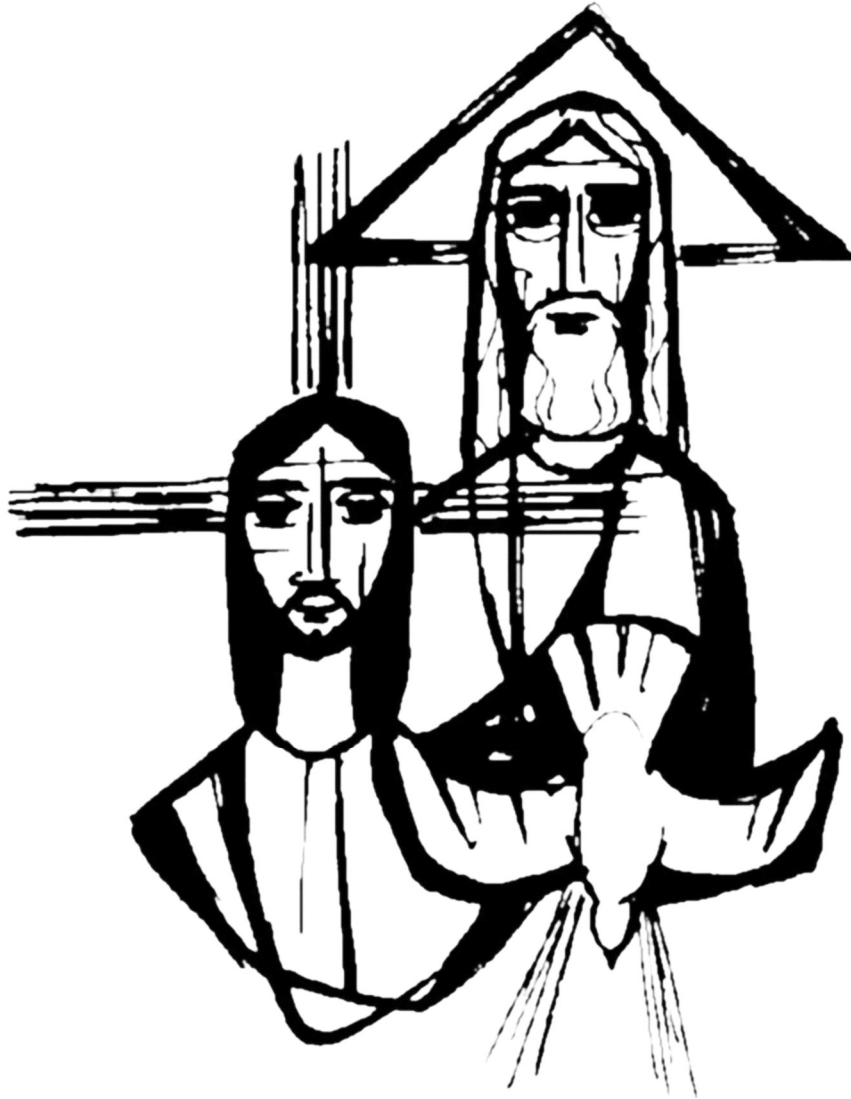
# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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## The Most Holy Trinity 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024

(Sunday cycle year B, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 4)



*“Baptise them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”*

### Prayer for Trinity Sunday

To God the Father, who first loved us, and made us in His own image; To God the Son who loved us, and washed away our Sins in his own Blood; To God the Holy Spirit, who spreads the Love of God abroad in our hearts, we raise our prayers this day. Amen.

# THIS WEEK

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Margaret Holden	St Bede (feast)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>The Most Holy Trinity</b>
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For peace in the world	
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		St Augustine of Canterbury (feast)
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	<b>No Mass today</b>	Feria (week 8)
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	Feria
Thu 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Maureen Spencer	Feria
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	In thanksgiving – (BD H)	The Visitation of the BVM (feast)
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	St Justin (memorial)
	10.30am	Abbot's Intention - (Anointing of the sick during Mass)	
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>Corpus Christi</b>
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Brenda O'Gorman	

**First Saturday of the Month: Confessions at 10.00am, Anointing of the sick during 10.30am Mass**

This week	Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	M Russell		L Gardner		Open
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	R Conboy		F Fordyce		Open
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	L Russell	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	F Fordyce, G Fowler	<b>Collection counters</b>	J & K Slater
Next week	Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> June	M Sherry		P Cook		Open
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	B Cook		J Kitchen		Open
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	J & K Slater	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	J Grogan, C Snape	<b>Collection counters</b>	C & K Snape

**Last weekend: attendance: 97, collection: £444.20 – thank you!**

**Readings: Deuteronomy 4: 32-34 & 39-40. Romans 8: 14-17. Matthew 28: 16-20.**

From where does the Church get its notion of *The Trinity* of three persons but one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Some texts:

In **Genesis 18**, in the shimmering heat of the midday sun, Abraham and his wife Sarah received a divine visitation variously described as by two angels, three men and God himself - the mystery is left without explanation and the Fathers, we are told, saw this as a foreshadowing of the doctrine of the Trinity.

*Wisdom speaks her own praises ... I came forth from the Most High ... from eternity... from the beginning, he created me and for eternity I shall remain.* (Sir 24 5ff)

*The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world and that which holds all things together, knows every word that is said.* (Wis 7)

*Wisdom as creator: God created me when his purpose first unfolded, before the oldest of all his works. From everlasting I was firmly set, from the beginning, before the earth came into being.* (Prov 8: 22-23)

Today's readings offer a little more: in the first reading, Moses describes God who, as it were, goes out of himself as the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire ...

The psalm speaks of God as the faithful creative word who fills the earth with his love and by the breath of his mouth, all the stars.

In the second reading, St Paul speaks of those moved by the **Spirit** as sons of God whom they can call **Abba, Father** and who are, thereby, coheirs with **Christ**, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

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Finally, in the Gospel, reference to the Trinity is more explicit in Jesus' last instructions to his disciples: *Go make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit* and elsewhere he speaks of his relationship with the Father and the Spirit.

The understanding of *Trinity* developed over the centuries to what we profess in our creed today.

So how does all of this help us in our faith?

Trinity is an expression of the God who, due to his own eternal perfection, cannot help but give of himself wholly to any object of his contemplation in total, absolute love. The only object worthy of God's contemplation is God himself.

In comparison, however hard I contemplate **myself** or my own image or even love it, whether in art, sculpture or a mirror, it will always lack reality, it could never be a living, perfect reflection of me, stepping out of that mirror, due to my imperfect and finite limitations. But God is infinite in his perfections, and so his eternal self-reflection is as real as he is himself and does, so to speak, step out of the mirror.

A crude image for such sublime issues. Nevertheless, the Creed can speak of the Father begetting the Son of God ... *God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, **begotten not made*** and one with the Father ... (who is doing the self-reflection.)

There is then, an eternal relationship between the Father and the Son; a relationship of love which, in **its** perfection, **is** the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity *who eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son*.

The above description is an attempt to capture something of what F.J. Sheed says in his book *Theology and Sanity* in which he devotes 4 of his 32 chapters to the subject of the Trinity. So where do we come into it?

The second person of the Trinity, as we know, is the Son also called the *Word*. One might describe the *Word* as God's eternal expression of himself. But let us turn to The Gospel of St John who in his opening chapter tells us that *in the beginning was the Word who was with God, who was God and through whom, all things came to be*.

The *Word* came into the world that had it's being through him. The *Word* was made flesh and lived among us and in doing so, God unites us to himself so that even while still on earth, we are taken up into the eternal divine, loving relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit along with the rest of his creation; except that for us, it is at the most intimate relationship because we have said yes to the Father, yes to the Son and yes to the Holy Spirit and are thus swept up into the very heart of God as sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ.

This should give us something to celebrate on this feast of the Holy Trinity.

## Reflections

***The Jews said, 'You are not fifty yet and you (say) you have seen Abraham! Jesus replied: I tell you solemnly, before Abraham ever was, I Am.*** (Jn 8: 57ff)

Jesus says:

***To have seen me is to have seen the Father ...*** (Jn 14: 9)

***I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate.*** (Jn 14: 16)

***Charity (Love) is the sweet and holy bond which links the soul with its Creator: it binds God with man and man with God.*** (St Catherine of Sienna)

With Prayers, Fr. Raphael.

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## This week's commemorations

**St Augustine of Canterbury** (d 604) a monk and later prior of a monastery in Rome, in 596 he was chosen by Pope Gregory to lead 30 monks to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons. They landed at Ebbsfleet in 597 and were received cautiously by King Ethelbert. By 601, Ethelbert and many of his people were baptised. He built the cathedral at Canterbury and established a see at London.

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**The Visitation of the BVM:** The Gospel of Luke tells us that, filled with the joy of the annunciation by the angel and the news that her cousin Elizabeth miraculously was also with child, Mary visits her. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry saying: 'Of all woman you are the most blessed and blessed is the fruit of your womb...' which became the basis for the *Hail Mary*.

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**MAY IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY** and we say a decade after weekday Masses throughout the month.

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In the **BOOKSHOP**, there is new stock of cards and gifts for **FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS**.

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**SUMMER FAMILY FUNDAY** at the Parish Hall on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June** from 2.00 to 5.00pm. Free entry, free parking. Fun and games, bar and refreshments, inflatables, raffle, entertainment, market stalls, face painting and much more! We would be grateful for **HOMEMADE CAKES** and/or muffins for our cake stall – please add your name to the list at the back of church if you can help. Also, **RAFFLE TICKETS** will be on sale after Mass each weekend. Thank you in advance!!!

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**PLEASE PRAY** for Maureen Spencer who has died, and those who are sick or housebound including: Isaac Wilson, Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick and for those who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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**DURING ORDINARY TIME (SUMMER)** i.e. up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 24 is number 20, Jeanette Hindle. The next block of 10 weeks has started so **subs are due** unless you've paid for the full year.

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### **Bidding Prayers for the Most Holy Trinity 29/30 May**

**Priest:** On this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we turn to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in prayer.

**Reader:** Pope Francis tells us that whenever we make the sign of the cross it is a reminder of God's love for us. Help us to think about our faith every time we make this simple gesture.  
*Lord in your mercy....*

**Reader:** For all those across the world for whom life is an everyday struggle to survive, whether through conflict, poverty or hunger. Let them have hope.  
*Lord in your mercy....*

**Reader:** For our politicians – give them the courage to campaign for the forthcoming election with humility, honesty and integrity.  
*Lord in your mercy....*

**Reader:** For couples trying to conceive – as we approach the Feast of the Visitation on Friday we ask that they may be blessed with the gift of children as Elizabeth was.  
*Lord in your mercy....*

**Reader:** For our friends, neighbours and acquaintances – may we recognise Christ in all we meet and especially in the unborn child.  
*Lord in your mercy....*

**Reader:** For ourselves – sometimes we can't see the path ahead. Help us to think clearly and wait patiently for what is right.  
*Lord in your mercy....*

**Reader:** We think of all those in our Parish who feel alone and apprehensive of the future. May they be comforted, as we pray together...  
*"Hail Mary ....."*

In silence we think of our own intentions.

**Priest:** "May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you." We offer our prayers in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

**Priest:** As we thank God for the gift of his Son in Holy Communion, let us remember those of our Parish who are sick or housebound.

**All:** May the body and blood of your Son, which we now send to them through our Eucharistic Ministers, bring them consolation and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.