

Dear friends,

Trinity Sunday

I have recorded a YouTube offering describing the “Holy Trinity” of Father Son and Holy Spirit as a divine Dance! Now, this isn’t the product of my own fevered imagination but one of the oldest ways theologians in the East have sought to describe God. It lasts nine minutes so settle down, get yourself a coffee and have a listen. https://youtu.be/9MpQ_NHO2Wg
And as usual I have also loaded a printed version on my Blog. <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2020/06/the-divine-dance.html>

Andrei Rublev’s icon of the Trinity recollects the visit of the three visitors to Abraham and Sarah. The Father (on the left) is garbed in blue and wears an outer garment of luminescent gold, an indefinable shade, unearthly and mysterious. The Son (in the middle), though earthly in the deep red-brown of his robe, is shawled in the blue of the heavens and marked with the royal gold of his Father’s kingdom. The Holy Spirit is depicted in heavenly blue shrouded with the green of life. The son’s eyes are fixed on the Father, interceding his hands raised in blessing on the Chalice and the Father’s eyes are fixed on the Son listening. The Spirit awaits, fulfilling his role as the embodiment and articulation of the divine will, his eyes focussed on the chalice of the Eucharistic meal.

Note: From tomorrow, Louise and I are on a week’s holiday so you will have a well-earned rest from me this Wednesday and Sunday. Normal service resumes on Wednesday 17th June.

The blackbirds in our garden have fledged, our figs are plumping up nicely, a couple of tomato plants have died in the greenhouse, but most things are coming on nicely. Axel, our cat, caught a huge mole which made a change from mice and all this provides a welcome distraction from the 6pm news for which I think I am developing an allergy. Reading the Bible though, reminds us that life was ever thus. Lying, cheating, murder, vanity, oppression and cowardice fills the pages of the Bible. And yet so does, nobility, honesty, humility, mercy, justice, altruism and courage.

The Bible reflects life as well as commentates on it and seeks to shape it. Its unerring honesty in this regard is part of its core strength. Beyond the transient deeds of transient people lies the eternal depth and wisdom of an ultimate good that we call God. Achieving communion with God is our ultimate goal which the mystics tell us can be achieved in this life (I’m not there yet!). Our example of a human being completely united with God is Jesus Christ whose humanity was in total union with that eternal wisdom, truth, and life. In that

way Jesus is as He says in John's gospel "the way the truth and the life" and he asks us to follow Him as the example of a perfect human life. Human depravity, like the poor, will always be with us, but those who find the way to God know that all will be redeemed and we catch glimpses of the kingdom in small things and in small things we can see eternity.

See as the poets & mystics see. William Blake and John Donne

To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.

'No Man is an Island'

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

Musical interlude!

For those who missed Friday's special Desert Island Discs, the first song they played was Amazing Grace sung in this beautiful version by Judy Collins. It is absolutely gorgeous. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtteRD5bBNQ>

The Prayer for Today

**Lord our God,
You have given your Son to the world and in his church he nourishes the faithful with the gospel and the sacraments.
We ask you that Christians everywhere may find strength to tread his path; and that they be for each other and with each other so that the power of your grace may shine through their lives.
Through Christ our Lord,
In the power of the Spirit.**

Love and peace,
Martin

Please note my new email address is vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk