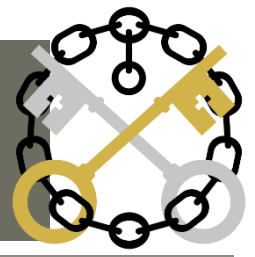


ST PETER IN CHAINS



Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (A)

7th June 2020

Parish Liturgy



SUNDAY MASS

Suspended until further notice.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

By request.

Public Mass, Public Liturgy, Sacraments and Parish gatherings in the Diocese of Galloway have been suspended until further notice.

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St Peter's in Chains, Ardrossan is a Parish of the RC Diocese of Galloway. Scottish Charity Registration Number SC 010576



WEEKLY BULLETIN

If you would like to receive the weekly Bulletin and updates by email, please get in touch with the Parish Office and send us your email address. If you know of someone who would like to be included on the mailing list, please let us know. Thanks!

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (A)

Introduction

Today we celebrate the mystery of God as revealed to us by Jesus: one God, but three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is a mystery we can never understand, and even less explain. We are invited to trust in Jesus and what he teaches, and take our place in the mystery of the Divine Community.

Gospel Reading John 3:16-18

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'

Reflection

We begin our Summer 'Ordinary Time' by celebrating a strange feast - not of a particular saint or event, but of the awesome paradoxes of our God, the Three-in-One, Father, Son and Spirit: so immeasurably distant, yet so amazingly close, so full of power and so full of love. It is love that is the key to the mystery: the revelation of God, to Moses and in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shows a perfect love - a perfect unity. In the beginning, in the story of Creation in Genesis, God made man and woman 'in the image and likeness of God', to live together as a community of love. So too, the Church is an image of this perfection of community which is Father, Son and Spirit. We, as many members of one Church, strive in our everyday lives to imitate God who is Three and One, perfect unity and perfect love.



Re-Opening of our Parish Church

We are hoping that Places of Worship may be allowed to open around the second week of June for private prayer and visits. Hopefully, soon after this, the Mass and public services can be celebrated again. When public services begin again in Church, there will be some restrictions that we will need to deal with: Cleaning the Church, sanitising, distancing, face coverings etc. So we will need to get a few teams ready to help out. If you would be willing to help with the cleaning, or as an usher, please get in touch with the Parish Office. We would be very grateful for your help to get things moving again.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (A) 2020

June 2020	St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i>	Thought for the Day <i>(Thoughts about the Blessed Trinity.)</i>
Sunday 7 th June	<p>Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (A) - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and Alison Dunn (A).</p> <p>There is a famous story about St Augustine, who was walking along the seashore one morning, trying to understand the Most Holy Trinity. Suddenly he saw ahead of him a little child playing. The child had made a hole in the sand, and was walking back and forth between the hole and the ocean. He held a little shell in his hands. When he reached the ocean, he would fill the shell up with water. Then he would carefully carry it back and pour the water into the hole. He kept on doing this. After a while, St Augustine asked what he was doing. The child answered, "I am going to empty the sea into that hole, which I have dug in the sand." St Augustine laughed out loud. Then he said, "Child, that is quite impossible. Look how big the ocean is, and how small this hole is!" The child looked at him and answered, "And yet, it would be easier for me to do this than for you to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity." And with that, the child disappeared. Our faith in the Blessed Trinity is a great mystery, so we must always stay humble and confident in God, like little children.</p>	
Monday 8 th June	<p>10th Week of the Year (A) - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish, Hugh and Tommy McEvoy (A) and also Julia Paterson (A).</p> <p>God Is Love Because He Is a Trinity - It's something we have all heard many times. In fact, we may have become so used to it that we don't remember how revolutionary and unique that conception of God really is. There are many religions in the world, and many of them have come to understand that God is good. But almost all of them start with man's search for God. Christianity is different. Christianity is about God's search for man. When Jesus Christ came to earth, he came in order to rescue the fallen human race from evil and bring it to the joys of eternal life. And so, in Christianity, we have the privilege of receiving God's own revelation of himself - he actually shows us, in Christ, who he is and what he is like.</p>	
Tuesday 9 th June	<p>Feast of St. Columba - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish, and also for the sick and housebound.</p> <p>The most fundamental and essential characteristic of the Blessed Trinity is love. Not power, not knowledge, not transcendence - but love. This explains why Jesus came to earth in the first place: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16). And this also explains what the Holy Trinity is all about. If God were solitary, how could his nature be love? Love always means relationship and self-giving. God is love.</p>	
Wednesday 10 th June	<p>10th Week of the Year (A) - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for the Parish, and for doctors, nurses and care staff.</p> <p>The Catechism teaches us that "The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life" (CCC 234). This is because we are created in the image and likeness of God, as the Bible tells us. Therefore, if God's essential nature is love, so is ours! We have a built in openness to other people. We are incomplete by ourselves. We are created to give ourselves to others and to receive others. The Father, from all Eternity, loves the Son and pours himself into the Son, and the Son loves the Father in return. And that mutual love is so complete that the Holy Spirit proceeds from it.</p>	
Thursday 11 th June	<p>Memorial of St. Barnabas - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the parish and for the re-opening of Churches soon.</p> <p>Every human family is an image of this Trinitarian love. The husband gives himself without limits to the wife, and the wife receives him and gives herself in return, without limits. And it is through that total love of mutual self-giving that God brings a new life into the world: a child, called to eternal friendship with God. This is the true sacredness and beauty of married love, of sexual love. This is why the Church never wavers in issues of sexual morality: human sexuality has a deep theological meaning that we must all honour if we are to live life to the full.</p>	
Friday 12 th June	<p>10th Week of the Year (A) - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and Sheelagh Kelly (A).</p> <p>Drawing Nearer to Our Neighbours -This mysterious and wonderful doctrine about God, that he is both unity and trinity, is called by the Catechism "the central mystery of Christian faith and life". It's the centre of our faith, because it gives us a glimpse into the inner life of God himself, the God we believe in. And it's the centre of our life, because we are called to be living images of God, created to love and be loved. Jesus gave his Church the great commandment to "love one another as I have loved you." He did not command us to make millions of pounds. He did not command us to win awards and prizes in our profession. He did not command us to be comfortable. He commanded us to be like him: to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbour as ourselves. And loving God leads automatically to loving our neighbour.</p>	
Saturday 13 th June	<p>Memorial of St. Anthony of Padua - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish, and to overcome all forms of racism, intolerance and the instrumentalisation of the human person.</p> <p>Pope Benedict wrote in his first encyclical: "In the saints one thing becomes clear: those who draw near to God do not withdraw from men, but rather become truly close to them" (Deus Caritas Est, 42). Let's be the first ones to forgive, even if the other person is at fault. Let's be the first ones to go out of our way to help someone who is struggling. Let's be the first ones to defend the truth when others attack it, In short, today, let's renew our commitment to make our way through this sin-darkened world by being bright, shining images of God, of the Most Holy Trinity, who is love.</p>	

Mustard Seeds

✠ Shamrocks, Sun and Roses

The shamrock, a kind of clover, is a leguminous herb that grows in marshy places. St Patrick, the missionary patron saint of Ireland, used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. The story goes that one day his friends asked Patrick to explain the mystery of the Trinity. He looked at the ground and saw sham-rocks growing amid the grass at his feet. He picked one up one of its trifoliate leaves and asked if it were one leaf or three. Patrick's friends couldn't answer – the shamrock leaf looked like one but it clearly had three parts. Patrick explain-ed to them: "The mystery of the Holy Trinity – one God in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - is like this, but more complex and un-intelligible." St. Cyril, the teacher of the Slavs, tried to explain the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity using sun as an example. He said, "God the Father is that blazing sun. God the Son is its light and God the Holy Spirit is its heat — but there is only one sun. So there are three Persons in Holy Trinity but God is One and indivisible." St. John Maria Vianney used to explain Holy Trinity using roses on the altar. "The rose has colour, fragrance and shape. But these are expressions of one reality, namely, the single rose. There is also a very old and much-repeated story about St. Augustine, one of the intellectual giants of the Church. He was walking by the seashore one day, attempting to conceive of an intelligible explanation for the mystery of the Trinity. As he walked along, he saw a small boy on the beach, pouring seawater from a shell into a small hole in the sand. "What are you doing, my child?" asked Augustine. "I am trying to empty the sea into this hole," the boy answered with an innocent smile. "But that is impossible, my dear child," said Augustine. The boy stood up, looked straight into the eyes of Augustine and replied, "What you are trying to do - comprehend the immensity of God - is even more impossible." Then he vanished. The child was an angel sent by God to teach Augustine a lesson. Later, Augustine wrote: "You see the Trinity if you see love." According to him the Father is the lover, the Son is the loved one and the Holy Spirit is the personification of the very act of loving. This means that we can understand something of the mystery of the Holy Trinity more readily with the heart than with our feeble mind. Evagrius of Pontus, a Greek monk of the 4th century who came from what is now Turkey in Asia and later lived out his vocation in Egypt, said: "God cannot be grasped by the mind. If God could be grasped, God would not be God."

► **Solemnity of Corpus Christi** Next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. There will be a special Eucharistic Blessing for the Feast Day for all our Parishioners, friends and family. Through the blessing, we ask the Risen Lord to protect all our loved ones from the virus and from danger.

► **St Peter's Pastoral Council** The weeks of lockdown have been a good opportunity to get our St Peter's Pastoral Council going. The following Parishioners have agreed to be members: Katrina Pollock, Anne McGrattan, Andrena Hughes, Aidan McGarth, Maureen McGuire, David and Maure Priest, George Poole, Sharon McLaughlin, David Benson, Rob Penguilly, Monica Bennett, Marade Griffen and John Walsh. I am very grateful to them for their time and support. One of the pressing pastoral themes will be the challenges facing us when the churches are open again, hopefully by the end of June.

► **New Appointment for Father Duncan** Bishop Nolan has appointed Father Duncan to be Parish Priest of St Bride's, West Kilbride with the coming retirement of Father Boland on 21st June 2020, whilst remaining Parish Priest of St Peter's. Our two Parishes will be looking at common issues for the coming months, particularly the issue of Mass Times, etc.

A Simple Explanation of the Mass - Part II

The Mass is not something that people created. Rather, it is the creation of Jesus himself. St Paul, in his First Letter to the Corinthians describes the institution of the Eucharist. We are also very fortunate to have a description of the Mass that was written about 150AD, a little over 100 years after Jesus died by St Justin Martyr in a letter to a Roman Emperor. It is comforting and important to be aware that the Mass we celebrate today is almost identical in structure and content to the Eucharist that the early Christians celebrated 2000 years ago. When Catholics gather to celebrate the Eucharist, they are acting in obedience to the Lord's command: "Do this in memory of me." Our faith reminds us of the four-fold presence of Christ in the Liturgy. Jesus is present in the assembly gathered in his name, Jesus is present in the priest, who represents Christ, the head of his Body, Jesus is present in the Word proclaimed, and Jesus is present in the Eucharistic species - in the bread and wine. During our celebration of the Lord's Supper, it is Jesus: who calls us and gathers us together so that we might offer fitting worship to God (Introductory Rites); who speaks in us when the Word of God is proclaimed (Liturgy of the Word); who takes our prayer of praise and thanks to the heavenly altar and who shares with us his Body and Blood (Liturgy of the Eucharist); and who commissions us to go forth to continue his saving work in the world (Concluding Rites).

Good Practice Suggestion: Try and see Christ in the people you pray with at Mass, keeping in mind that some of them may be carrying heavy burdens.

Just for a laugh -

Thanks to Alfie Agostini



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