

READINGS, REFLECTION AND RESOURCES THIS TRINITY SUNDAY

(from the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference Mass Readings <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/readings/>.)

'In the Church, one God is preached,
who is "**above all things**" and **through all things** and **in all things**".

Yes certainly, "**above all things**" as the Father, the first principle and origin;
and truly "**through all things**", that is through the Word,
and finally "**in all things**" in the Holy Spirit

(St Athanasius, c.297-273).

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

34: 4-6, 8-9



With the two tablets of stone in his hands, he went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. The Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there.

Moses called on the name of the Lord.

The Lord passed before him and Moses proclaimed,

You, O Lord, are a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness; and Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped.

'If I have won your favour, Lord,' Moses said 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL TEXT

Dan 3:52-56

RESPONSE

TO YOU GLORY AND PRAISE FOR EVERMORE.

- You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.
Blest your glorious holy name. ***To you glory and praise for evermore.
To you glory and praise for evermore.***
- You are blest in the temple of your glory.
You are blest on the throne of your kingdom. ***To you glory and praise for evermore.
To you glory and praise for evermore.***
- You are blest who gaze into the depths.
You are blest in the firmament of heaven. ***To you glory and praise for evermore.
To you glory and praise for evermore.***

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 13: 11-13

Brothers, we wish you happiness. Try to grow perfect. Help one another. Be united. Live in peace and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Word of the Lord.

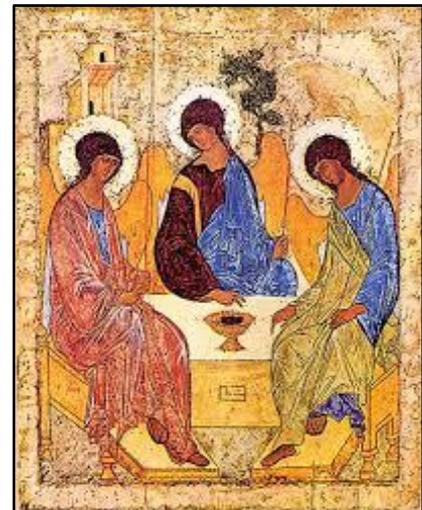
*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
the God who is, who was, and who is to come. Rev. 1:8*

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 13: 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.
However, whoever refuses to believe
is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe
in the name of God's only Son.



PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

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REFLECTION

A story: St Augustine was walking by the seashore trying to think how to explain the mystery of the Trinity. He saw a small boy pouring seawater from a shell into a small hole in the sand. "What are you doing, lad?" asked Augustine. "I am trying to empty the sea into this hole," the boy answered with a wry smile. Augustine replied, "But that's impossible!" The boy stood up to look Augustine in the eye and replied, "What you are doing – trying to understand and explain the mystery of God with your small head - is even more impossible!" How can we understand and explain God? Evagrius, a 4th century Greek monk, said: "God cannot be grasped by the mind. If our minds could do so, God would not be God." Still, these questions have remained important for us. Today's Readings reflect parts of our struggle to know God although whatever we gain is just a glimpse of the whole reality of God.

For the Hebrews, no image of God was adequate, so they used word images. The Exodus text portrays the most important things the Hebrews could say about God: "You O Lord, are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." The text portrays God as committed yet patient, utterly reliable. To be powerful is not enough; how power is used reveals one's character. When power is used both in solidarity – such as serving the poor and needy compassionately - and reliably, it is a glimpse of real *Godness*.

Today's feast invites each of us to learn how God, known to us as Trinity, is faithfully one with each of us and in our relationships: I-and-*Father, Son, Holy Spirit*-and-neighbour.

God as Creator, purely selflessly in love, has created and is forming us in the Divine Image. Our own experience of good parents or our dream of perfect parents resonates with Jesus relating to his Father by his culture's intimate name for 'father' -"abba".. With trust in God as father/mother, we grow in our desire and confidence to provide, to produce and to create for the good of our family, our faith community, our environment and for people in need.

God as Redeemer and Liberator is God in solidarity. Even as per his very name, Jesus is 'One Who Saves' and delivers. He calls us to save and deliver in His name. Though he was equal to God, he did not exploit the fullness of his identity. Listening to his Father, Jesus valued humanity beyond his own Glory. As disciples of this Teacher who reveals this Way, this Truth and this Life, we are called, freed and gifted to learn, to grow in solidarity in Christ, to bring together what has been broken and to choose 'Thy Kingdom come' faithfully in our daily lives.

" I will be with you always...You will not be orphans!" The Spirit of God was promised, is with us and is reliable. Listening to the Advocate, the Counsellor, we learn and are empowered – alone and together, right here right now - to seek truth and love, and to dispel ignorance.

We do not comprehend fully but with our reason and hearts, we seek to believe and understand God whom Jesus reveals to us as Trinity. God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is utterly reliable and unchangeably one with us in love. We believe and understand God's Covenant with us is irrevocable - as is for the Hebrew people as well. We learn and grow – as we can - thanks to God's continual regard for us in mercy and faithfulness. The Spirit of God impels us to respond to the Gospels' call for justice in all our relationships. Thank you God!

Sources: Sr Patricia Stevenson, Josephite Sunday Readings and Vatican Commentary 13 June, 2019

HOW CAN WE NURTURE OUR AWARENESS OF IDEAS FROM DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW?

One valuable resource we can access online is our own (Brisbane's) *Catholic Leader*.

<https://catholicleader.com.au/>

Other resources are the ABC Religion and Ethics programs on ABC TV, RN (Radio National), iView and Podcast as named below:

Compass (ABC TV Sun. 6.30 pm; repeated Wed. at 1.30pm, iView)

Led by Kumi Taguchi, *Compass*, explores the interface between religion and life as experienced by individuals and communities, including ordinary Australians, public leaders, religious thinkers and philosophers.

God Forbid (RN Sun. 6.05 – 7 am, 10.05 – 11 pm; Mon. 9.05 – 10.00 pm; Podcast)

For an hour each week, James Carleton looks at religion's place in the centre of world affairs and the profound questions that continue to puzzle many of us. Why are we here? What happens when we die? Does God matter?

The Religion and Ethics Report (RN , Wed. 5.30pm; Thurs. 5.30am, Fri. 11am Podcast)

Andrew West interrogates the space where religion and ethics meet news and current affairs in Australia and around the world.

Songs of Praise (ABC TV. Sun. 11.30 am)

Inspiring hymns, songs and stories of faith from around the UK and beyond.

For the God Who Sings (ABC Classic: Sunday 10pm – Midnight)

Stephen Watkins presents music for the spirit, drawn from centuries of tradition.

The Philosopher's Zone (RN: Sun. 5:30pm Repeated: Sun. 5.30am , Podcast)

David Rutledge leads his audience through the strange thickets of logic, metaphysics and ethics over 30 minutes that will extend the mind.

The Minefield (RN: Wed. 11.30am Repeated: Sat. 12.30am, Sun. 10am, Podcast)

Waleed Aly and Scott Stephens negotiate the ethical dilemmas, contradictory claims and unacknowledged complicities of modern life.

Short and Curly (Podcast)

Carl Smith, Molly Daniels and Dr Matt Beard discuss the curly questions for kids and their parents from animals to technology, school, pop culture and the future.