

SUNDAY PLUS

God of life and love

Living-loving Trinity



by Fr Denis Blackledge SJ

The heart of the Trinity is relationship. The key to understanding Trinity is relationship. Trinity is simply deep and, in the end, deeply simple, once we grasp that Trinity is neither more nor less than a living relationship. Father loves Son so much, and Son loves Father so much, that their mutual love is another person, the Spirit. You and I are already immersed in that loving inter-personal relationship by dint of our baptism. That same Spirit that Jesus talked about in today's Gospel is the "Spirit of truth", who, day by day, leads us to the complete truth.

Paul hits the spot when he says in the second reading: "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Hope, which springs from sufferings via patience and perseverance, is not deceptive. Instead it deepens our plunge into the mystery of relationship.

Meanwhile, the first reading speaks of Wisdom, alias the Holy Spirit, at the side of the "master" Father, "I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited word and delightery in the human race." The Wisdom of God is like the dove – the Spirit – dangling over chaos at the start of creation, making living sense, bringing light out of darkness.

Your job and mine in daily life is to be good playmates with the living-loving Trinity, bringing taste and delight to our world.

Fr Denis Blackledge SJ was the Religious Adviser to Sean Bean in the BBC television series, *Broken*.

The icon of the Holy Trinity according to that painted by Andrei Rublev. Santo Vitore Martire Church, Casorate Primo, Italy / shutterstock.com

Imprisoned but freed

by James Gallogly

In prison, when we sing, "tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more," there are more than a few wry smiles. For some it really is due to the fact that they are indeed free! They have travelled a long journey from suffering, through endurance, via character to grace. They have been introduced to the concept of hope and felt the call to embrace it. If we look around the pews today there are many people behind bars; bars of bereavement, physical pain, mental ill health, or family dysfunction. Hope can give them the strength to break out of these prisons.

Hope in God's enduring love for us, his new creation, is a tremendous grace. No matter what our situation, we are invited to rejoice in his lavish gifts evident in a tiny flower or an encouraging smile. Here lies true freedom and liberation from all that would imprison us.

James Gallogly is a chaplain at a UK prison

Dearest Lord, teach me patience. Help me to see you in all the ups and downs of daily life. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, watch over, protect and bless my family, friends and all those whom I love. Amen.

God matters

by Sr Janet Fearnis FMDM

Was it a prayer? I don't know. I didn't have time to think. All I know is that the car was skidding uncontrollably towards a massive tree in the middle of an Australian forest, miles from anywhere. I just remember my one word yell: "God!" Against all odds, the car slowed and came to a halt, its front bumper touching the tree trunk, with not even a scratch to tell the tale. These were the days before mobile phones. If I'd hit the tree I would not have been found for days because nobody would have known where to start searching for me. As it was, when I had recovered

from that instant of blinding terror, I could drive away safely and uninjured.

God matters. Sometimes it takes moments of extreme danger or even of despair, to know just how much God matters. Some things are just, quite simply, beyond our control. Let God be God: the response can be a life-saver.

Sr Janet Fearnis is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

"We are impatient, anxious to see the whole picture, but God lets us see things slowly, quietly."

Priscilla Francis

Today Proverbs 8:22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15	Monday 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 Matthew 5:38-42	Tuesday 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 Matthew 5:43-48	Wednesday 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 Matthew 6:1-6 16-18	Thursday 2 Corinthians 11:1-11 Matthew 6:7-15	Friday 2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30 Matthew 6:19-23	Saturday (E&W) Ss John Fisher and Thomas More (Feast) 2 Maccabees 6:18, 21, 24-31 Matthew 24:4-13	Saturday 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 Matthew 6:24-34	Next Sunday Genesis 14:18-20 1 Corinthians 11:23-28 Luke 9:11-17
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