

**PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL AND ST SIMON STOCK
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Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – 30th May 2021

Today's liturgy invites us to enter into the life of the Blessed Trinity – The Father, Son and Holy Spirit – not so much as to fully understand and explain the Trinity as to appreciate the gift that God bestows upon us through this mystery. It is a celebration of the various manifestations of our God to the world in order to reveal the depth of His love. The mystery of God was first revealed at creation, then in the stories of God's covenant relationship with the biblical Israel who recognised their identity as God's chosen people.

In the Old Testament, the 'Word of God' and the 'Spirit of God' are recurring themes that describe God's self-manifestation. They were present at the moment of creation, as the book of Genesis recounts: "And God said, let *Us* make man in *Our* own image and likeness" (Gen. 1:26). As our first reading today shows, Israel saw God's Word (given as Commandments through Moses and the prophets) as shaping their history as the people of God. The Spirit of God was seen as the source of breath and life, as the Psalmist sang (Ps 103):

*You hide your face they are dismayed
You take back your spirit, they die
You send forth your spirit, they are created
And you renew the face of the earth*

God's self-expression of Himself took a dramatic turn in the coming of His eternal Son, Jesus, into the world. In the gospels Jesus frequently speaks of His intimate relationship with the Father and we learn from what He says that He is so close to the Father that 'They are One.' In other words they share the same divine nature. Jesus is the icon of the Father, the perfect image of God. This bond of love between the Father and the Son is given expression in the Person of the Holy Spirit. Thus we say that our God is a Trinitarian God.

But what does this mean? It means that the essence of our God is love and unity. Our Trinitarian God is therefore an archetype of our united humanity and of the Church. This nature of our God teaches us that the only way to be truly happy and fulfilled human beings is to live in unity with others. The prevalent condition of loneliness in our world can only be overcome when we are able to step outside of ourselves and touch others from the inside. We live in a society where we emphasize privacy and we really do not want to be known. We fear losing ourselves to others perhaps because we are ashamed of what they are going to find. In this situation the unity of our Trinitarian God teaches us how to come to each other by stepping outside our own loneliness to meet the other person, respecting the gift that is the other person while at the same time remaining ourselves. We can truly find ourselves only when we allow ourselves to partake in this higher unity called the Trinity.

Thus the love expressed within the Trinity is not only a model of our Christian life but is personified in the Holy Spirit who is given to us and marks us out as Christians. This is what

happened when we were baptised in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. As such, we have been drawn into the life of the Trinity itself. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to form a unity which we call the Church. Only within this unity can our deepest yearnings be met, our deepest loneliness resolved. But we have to open up the door to love and let ourselves be loved in this way. Jesus wants to draw all of us into this unity which He shares with the Father and the Holy Spirit. 'That we all may be one just as He and the Father are one'. He has commissioned us to 'Go and make disciples of all nations'. In other words, to draw all people into this unity in the Trinity by sharing the love that we have received from our God.

NOTICES

Opening of Registration for Preparations for First Holy Communion

We are now accepting registrations for preparations for Holy Communion. The last group met by Zoom only. But this group which will begin classes in September will meet face to face here in our church hall. All necessary protocols for safety at that time will of course be followed. If you have children for first holy communion, please do register them ahead of September. Children must be 7yrs old by 31st August. The registration form is on our website www.carmelitechurch.org/activities/catechism-classes or simply email and request a form to be sent to you.

Family Retreat Day

A day of retreat is being organised for families at the SPEC Centre, Pinner HA5 3EP on Sunday 27th June from 9am-5pm. It is organised for families by families. Children of all ages are welcome. The retreat is structured around times of teaching and personal prayer for parents. Fr Matt Blake, Carmelite, will help the parents (re)discover the power of prayer. Children participate in a school of prayer specially tailored to their age, under the responsibility of volunteers. If you would like to register or just know a little bit more, please visit our website: <https://www.pulse-retreats.com/catholic-family-retreat> Do not hesitate to share the information and invite friends who might be interested.

Reception into the Church

On Saturday, 5th June, two adults – Matthew and Steven – will be received into the church here in our parish. As we welcome them into the Catholic fold, let us remember to pray for them.

Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Our Annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham will take place on 26th June. Because of the prevailing COVID situation, we will not provide a common travel coach as in previous years. Each person is encouraged to arrange their own means of transport to and from the venue.

<u>Collections Last Sunday</u>	Offering	£1397
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£219

Thank you for your generosity

Fr. Thaddeus, OCD