

WEEKLY SERMON

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Revelling in relationship with God

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday when we are invited to contemplate the wonders of the inner workings of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is famous for two things. The first is that many clergy find it an ideal day to have a guest preacher, probably because the topic is perceived as being so difficult! The second is that it is famous for heresies because so many of the familiar ways of explaining the Trinity, including St Patrick's three leaf shamrock, quickly lead us beyond the limits of Christian teaching. This video ([St. Patrick's Bad Analogies](#)) offers a light-hearted look at some of the common illustrations we use to explain the Trinity and why they don't work!

This Trinity Sunday, I invite us to avoid all the heresies and hard work of explaining the Trinity. Instead, I encourage us to inhabit our trinitarian understanding of God for the rich treasure it is. In today's passage from John's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples about the work of the Holy Spirit and the *relationship* between Him and both the Father and the Holy Spirit. That might be so familiar that we can easily overlook how wonderous it is but pause and think about it for a moment. If God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and each part of the Trinity is in *relationship* with the others, then *being in relationship* is an essential part of who God is.

This is one of the rich treasures of the reality of the Trinity. As Christians we believe that *God is relational*, it is simply an essential part of who He is. That relational identity flows out to us, and we are invited to be in a relationship with God. In fact, God is so committed relationships that the Father sent Jesus to bring people like you and me back into a relationship with Him. So committed is God to relationships that Jesus died for us on the cross to bring us into a right relationship with God. So committed is God to relationships that He invites us to live with the Holy Spirit present in every moment of our lives. Be in no doubt that God wants to be in a healthy relationship with you!

This relational treasure from the Trinity overflows into our dealings with one another too. Just as God goes to extraordinary lengths to have healthy relationship with us, so we are also invited to follow in Jesus' footsteps by going above and beyond what might be reasonable to form healthy, loving relations with those around us. We're invited to do that for all people but of course the bonds of loving relationships should be at their strongest between fellow Christians. We who are drawn into a relationship with God at God's expense have every reason to be extravagantly generous in our relationships with one another.

So this Trinity Sunday, don't tie yourself in knots trying to untangle the Trinity. Revel in the treasure that the Trinity offers to us. A model of extravagant relationship that is essential to who God is and therefore is also essential to who we are as Christians.

Revd Nick McKee, Director of Vocations

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