



Dear friends,

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. The Trinity is a mystery, and for centuries the Church has grappled to express that mystery in art, music, literature. In fact, for the first four hundred years of the Church's history, there was much debate about the nature of the Trinity.

One of the most beautiful icons of the Trinity was painted by a Russian monk by the name of Rublev. (See above) The icon depicts the three Divine persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit sitting at a table with a plate of food in front of them. In front of the table is a vacant place, and that place is meant to convey openness, hospitality and welcome towards the stranger, the outsider.

The vacant place is for us. It signifies God's invitation to share in the life of the Trinity. God wants us to come to His table, to share in His Divine Life.

In the first reading for this Sunday, Exodus 34:4-6.8-9, Moses is ascending Mt Sinai for a second time to re-negotiate the Commandments (after the people had worshipped the golden calf, and Moses had destroyed the first stone tablets), Moses asks God to forgive this 'headstrong' people. God passes before Moses and says: 'The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.' (verse 6)

Expressions such as this, show a continuity of the Old Testament with the New Testament revealing the God of Love revealed through His Son Jesus Christ.

In the gospel of John (Jn 3:16-18), as Jesus speaks with Nicodemus (the disciple who came to Jesus at night), he describes the love of God for us all in the words: 'For God loved the world so much that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.' (Jn 3:16). God's love for us, as it was for Israel, is never in question. God is always faithful. It is we who need to acknowledge and appreciate how immense and unconditional God's love is for us. The door for the tentative Nicodemus is always open. The table at which the Trinity invites us, always has a vacant seat.

Given the immense suffering that we as a world have experienced over the last few months with the Coronavirus, and more recently the protests on the streets of Hong Kong and America for justice and respect for all people, we need to remember that God's Son has saved the world through His sacrifice for us on the cross. And, that we are a redeemed people through His mercy and forgiveness. Surely, we are called to reflect that love in how we love our neighbour?

May the God of tenderness and compassion, who loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, the Trinity of persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, nourish our minds and hearts at the table of His banquet of love.

[Fr Kelvin](#)