

A Secure Community

Isaiah 40^{12-17,27-end}; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13^{11-end}; Matthew 28^{16-end}

What is man, that you should be mindful of him? (Psalm 8⁵)

We have arrived at Trinity Sunday - we celebrate the one God of the Judaeo-Christian tradition as we come to know him in three personalities. Some have said that this is a difficult thing to comprehend - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, yet we can know God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit as distinct and separate persons.

Two things help me accept what I may not fully understand:

1. I am one person but I am known in different ways by people: today, I am Fr Bob, Parish Priest; I am Bob, a husband; and I am dad or grumps. The same person in three distinct roles that are not confused.
2. H²O can be known in three separate ways - as ice; water; and steam. They are the same thing yet distinct.

It is perhaps more useful for us to recognise that God exists to support God! Father, Son and Holy Spirit need each other and support one another. Because they find support in each other God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, exist to support us.

God the Father loves us;
God the Son died for us;
God the Holy Spirit makes us more like Jesus.

I make no apology for beating you up for the last two weeks - we do need to witness to our faith and we do need to risk with God - but today I want to affirm to you the faith that holds you: the God who challenges you is the God who holds you.

Look at the readings for today:

- ✦ The Psalm talks about the Sovereignty of God of the Father - yet reminds us that this great God cares for the people he created: **What is man, that you should be mindful of him.**
- ✦ Paul, as he ends his second letter to the Corinthians, encourages us to be a community of support - **agree with one another, live in peace, greet one another with a holy kiss** - mirroring that community of support in God: **the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**
- ✦ The Gospel has Jesus challenging his disciples to be engaged in mission and introducing them into the community in God and promises **I am with you always, to the end of the earth.** There is nowhere we can go where God is not with us.
- ✦ The reading from Isaiah introduces God as majestic - it is summed up in the phrase: **have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, and strengthens the powerless.** It is what he goes on to say that reveals God's care for us:

Some think that this passage is the wrong way round - that it peaks with flying at the beginning. However, it reveals the promise of God to the pilgrim community **that wait on the Lord to renew their strength** that is the Church:

They shall mount up with wings like eagles - and that can be a genuine experience when everything is going well and God is in that.

They shall run and not be weary - this isn't flying but it is still positive and God is in that.

They shall walk and not faint - the promise of God is that we will always be able to put one foot in front of the other and never collapse all because God is with us.

God supports us because he is a member of our community and we are a member of his!