



The Most Holy Trinity: 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
Reflection / Homily – Mgr Daniel McHugh

**“Celebrating Selfless Love”**

This past Platinum Jubilee Celebration focused especially on The Queen, Elizabeth II’s 70 years on the Throne and in particular on the place of the constitutional monarchy in our society now and in the future. The Queen, because of age and infirmity, was unable to attend some of the events during the four-day celebration. Releasing a message to the United Kingdom at the end of the celebrations, she said she had been “deeply touched” by the vast crowds who had turned out to celebrate her 70 years. Even if she had missed some events, she said, “my heart has been with you all; and I remain committed to serving you to the best of my ability, supported by my family.” A spirit of community and fellowship was what struck you among the crowds who gathered; she felt the same, and said, “I hope this renewed togetherness will be felt for many years to come”. In the Jubilee we had reflected on and named what the Queen (the Crown) does for the UK through integrity, years of faithful service to the community, and holding society together. A unique example came through in the many tributes foreign leaders paid to her: I noted the emotional words of the former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, who spoke of the courage of the Queen in going to Ireland to seal the new commitment to two countries working together on an equal footing for the future, following the Good Friday Belfast Agreement.

It was a good thing to look back positively on all that has been achieved in the time of Queen Elizabeth II and to look to the future based on the loving service she had committed herself to.

On Trinity Sunday we are at such an important moment celebrating the close of cycle the of Salvation that began with creation, moved through the Birth of Jesus, His life, Death and Resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. We are able to stand back for a moment and reflect on our experience of God as loving Father in Creation, Son in Jesus coming and remaining with us, and the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives, who has empowered us to Faith, Hope and Charity. At every moment in our journey of Faith we experience the selfless love of God in three persons, the mystery of the Trinity.

The Scripture Readings for this celebration give us further insight into this. Father McGuire in his Book of Homilies “seeds for the soul” puts it this way: “In the first reading from the Book of Proverbs we hear about wisdom – the Holy Spirit, who is God’s playful companion in creating the universe. Then in the Gospel, we hear Jesus tell us that God the Father and He are one and He will give us the Holy Spirit who will reveal it to us. In other words, the Father and the Son love each other, and the Holy Spirit is that flow of love between them.”

**Monsignor Daniel McHugh**

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese

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Trinity Sunday is the Day when we recognise and name the God in three persons at work in our lives. It is making explicit what we say implicitly at every liturgical celebration, that we believe in one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and we close every liturgy with a Blessing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At the beginning of the Gospel with the triple sign of the Cross we remind ourselves to have God the Father in our minds, and God the Son, Jesus Christ in our heart, and God the Holy Spirit throughout our body. Finally, when we join our hands it symbolizes our unity with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit whose communion is a sign of love.

Explaining the Trinity is beyond us because understanding God is beyond us, but experiencing the wonder of the Trinity is something we all know. We were first introduced into this Family of Love at our Baptism at the beginning of our Christian life, and we will be anointed in the name of the Trinity as we leave for our eternal home. St Paul in the second reading for Trinity Sunday assures us that even in suffering we can find hope because “the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

I am reminded of the words from Julian of Norwich posted at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel near Rome during the Pandemic “Tutta andra bene” – all will be well – the words the good Lord spoke to her. She said, “I understand it for the union of all [of us] who will be saved in the Blessed Trinity.” And so we proclaim on the Solemnity “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.”

We are celebrating the selfless love of God we experience in our lives.

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