Pastor's Corner for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Year C, by Fr. Russell Pollitt, SJ
15th June 2025

The Most Holy Trinity: Happy Feast Day!

Trinity Sunday is a significant feast in the liturgical calendar of many Christian traditions, observed on the Sunday following Pentecost. It is also the patronal feast of our parish.

Unlike most other feasts that celebrate specific events in the life of Jesus or the Church—such as Christmas or Easter—Trinity Sunday is dedicated to a central doctrine of Christian theology: the Holy Trinity, the mystery of one God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Solemnity of the Trinity dates back to the early Middle Ages. Though the doctrine of the Trinity was firmly established by the early Church, particularly at the Councils of Nicaea (325 AD) and Constantinople (381 AD), there was initially no special day set aside to celebrate it. The feast gained prominence in the Western Church in the 9th century, thanks to the efforts of Alcuin of York, a scholar at Charlemagne's court. Pope John XXII officially instituted it in the 14th century. Today, it is celebrated by Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, and some Protestant denominations.

Trinity Sunday has a theological focus. It is a day to reflect on the triune nature of God—how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct persons, yet one in essence and being. This doctrine, although difficult to fully comprehend, is foundational to our Christian faith. It affirms that God's nature is relational, loving, and self-giving. The Trinity is not just a philosophical idea but a revelation of how God has acted in history: the Father as Creator, the Son as Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as Sustainer.

While the doctrine of the Trinity may seem abstract, it shapes Christian worship, prayer, and ethics. Christians are baptised "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," and many of our liturgical prayers are Trinitarian in form. By meditating on the Trinity, we are invited to live the Trinitarian life practically: in unity and mutual love, modelling the divine relationship in our own communities.

Trinity Sunday, therefore, is both doctrinal and devotional. It helps guard the Church against misunderstandings about God. It reinforces the Christian claim that God's nature is revealed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, as well as the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit. By setting aside a day to focus on the Trinity, the Church invites us into a deeper mystery—one that transcends intellectual comprehension but calls forth awe, worship, and our striving to imitate the loving community of our God.

Our patronal feast is an invitation to give time and attention to the God of community and the richness of our Christian faith. It also invites us to reflect on how we, individually and corporately, live community life. Do others see the unity and love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through us?