

'THE TRINITY IN LOVE' – HOMILY – 11 JUNE 2017

A couple in our parish family have a painting they brought back from overseas. They watched as it was painted.

The painter didn't sign the painting but the place where it was painted is recorded. It was painted by an elephant.

There must be a story to that.

The Handler directed the elephant in the process of painting the tree trunk and branches and foliage.

And we wonder how many times we take credit for what we do, and leave out that God, like The Handler, gave us the inspiration and showed us the possibilities.

God inspires us, sustains us, gifts us every day of our lives. On this Trinity Sunday, let us look back.

Last month we reflected on John's Gospel Chapter 14.

We highlighted

- **The relationship in God between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.**
- Today we call it a communion of love, *communio*, Trinitarian communion, a spirituality of communion and other terms.
- From John we learn that we are called into that communion.
- **We are invited into the love of God**, strengthened and blessed.

- One of the Old Testament revelations into God, is as **Creator**. God is creative.
- Another Old Testament revelation – we are created in the image and likeness of God.
- We too are gifted in being creative.

- From Jesus we see God as a parent, **Father**. We are family.
- John's Gospel leads us into the **mystery of communion**.
14:20 *"On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you."*

- We gain insight when Jesus says of himself
14:6 *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."*
- Each of us finds our way, truth and meaning, and life **in Jesus**.

- Of the Holy Spirit, John 14 says
14:16 *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever."*
14:17 *"This is the Spirit of truth ... "*
- We pray to the Holy Spirit - **the Advocate**, the Paraclete - to guide us and strengthen our resolve.

- We reflected on the use of the word 'dwell' in John's gospel.
- Eventually we gain insight into the mystery of God as Trinity, in love, dynamic loving.
- **And we are invited not only to love God and be loved by God, but also to be in love with God, to dwell in love, now and into the future."**

We write about the Trinity, we sing about the Trinity in our hymns.
Some people have creatively painted their impressions of the Trinity
St Patrick used the shamrock as a symbol of the Trinity.
How can poetry give us insights into the mystery of the Trinity?

[ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN – ON THE TRINITY](#)

We celebrated the Optional Memorial of 'St Ephrem the Syrian' on Friday.
In the 4th Century he composed poetry and song about God.
He was called the Harp of the Holy Spirit.
He placed the image of the sun within poetry.
The sun with its fire, its heat – warmth - and its light.
One sun, with fire, heat and light inseparable from each other. Three in one.
Then as a poet, he led people into understanding Father, Son and Holy Spirit as one God.
Sustaining our life.
But the sun doesn't love us. God loves us.
[\[St. Ephrem of Syria - Hymn on Faith No. 40: On the Trinity\]](#)

[THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA – WITH US AND IN SYRIA](#)

Last week we prayed for the people of Syria. How God does not give up on them.
God would not want us to give up on them.

At our 9am Mass a Syrian family in the procession of gifts moved us,
As we prayed for the children of Syria in accepting the bread,
And we prayed for the parents of Syria in accepting the wine.

[CHILDREN PRAY FOR PEACE, LATIN PARISH OF ST FRANCIS ALEPPO, SYRIA](#)

The webcast link later that afternoon didn't work, due to problems in Syria.
One of our Parish Pastoral Councillors followed up with direct phone contact with one of the Sisters in the Latin Parish of St Francis in Aleppo, Syria.
We sent a parish message of solidarity and prayer to them.

This is what Sister Brygida's said, in reply, from Aleppo,
*"Thank you so much for your prayers – it is very important to us.
Greetings to all people in your parish
and especially greetings to the Syrian people in your parish."*

As we are called into love by God,
We have an opportunity to stay connected with St Francis Parish Aleppo.
We could remember them especially on the first Sunday of each month
as their children pray for peace.
In love we send our parish greetings on this Trinity Sunday to Syria.

May each of us grow in the love of God during this week.
May the music and poetry within us, draw us deeper into the love of God.

Amen.

Fr. Gerry

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – The Trinity in Love – 11 June 2017]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/060417-day-mass.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook11062017>]

[St. Ephrem of Syria - Hymn on Faith No. 40: On the Trinity](#)

[St. Francis Parish \(Children in Prayer for Peace\) Aleppo, Syria - Facebook](#)