

'TRINITY SUNDAY - DISCIPLES OF TRUTH' – 27th MAY 2018

We welcome Fr Joe McGeehan this weekend to our parish community. Fr Gerry is over at Dunwich, Stradbroke Island for the 175th anniversary Mass for the first Aboriginal Catholic Mission in Australia, in May 1843 at Dunwich.

The Catholic Stradbroke Island members of Cleveland Parish have invited Fr Tom McDonough, Passionist Provincial, to be the main celebrant for this Sunday's Mass. Father Ashleigh Warbrooke (Cleveland parish priest), Fr Kevin Dance and Fr Gerry will concelebrate. There are four baptisms during the celebration.

As we ponder early human history and the understandings of God, we also recall the presence of God in the lives of Indigenous Peoples in Australia for over 65,000 years.

WONDERS AND COMMITMENT

In the Old Testament in today's **First Reading, Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40** we hear

- The wonders of God in the experience of the Israelite people
- The call from God for the Israelite people to be committed to God
- There is only one God

*“So acknowledge today and take to heart
that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath;
there is no other.
Keep his statutes and his commandments,
which I am commanding you today for your own well-being
and that of your descendants after you,
so that you may long remain in the land
that the Lord your God is giving you for all time.”*

GOD AS FATHER, CHRIST, AND SPIRIT

In the second Reading today from **Romans 8:14-17**

- We hear of the Father, Christ and Spirit
- We as Children of God are led by the Spirit
- The Spirit leads us to bear witness as we cry out Abba, Father
- We are joint heirs with Christ, suffering with him, that later we may be glorified with Him.

*“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.
When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’
it is that very Spirit bearing witness
with our spirit that we are children of God,*

*and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—
if, in fact, we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.”*

GROANING IN CREATION AND IN OURSELVES

Following on later in this chapter from Romans

*“the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay
and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;
and not only the creation, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly
while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”*

THE SPIRIT HELPS AND INTERCEDES FOR US

*“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
And God, who searches the heart,
knows what is the mind of the Spirit,
because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”*

NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD

*“If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?...
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”*

THE TRINITY

In today's **Gospel of Matthew 28:16-20**

We imagine what it must have been like as Jesus teaches the Eleven
and commissions them through the authority of Jesus.

He commissions them to baptize in the name of God as Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

LIVING THE TRUTH

God is with us forever.
On this Trinity Sunday,
as we remember 175 years of the mission of the Catholic Church
on Stradbroke Island, and in Brisbane,
and in South-east Queensland,
let us **PRAY TO GOD THAT WE BE GUIDED IN THE TRUTH**

In his message for [World Communications Day 2018](#),
Pope Francis adapted the *Peace Prayer of St Francis*. He wished to focus on Truth.
HOW DO WE DO THIS IN PRACTICAL WAYS AND TURN IT INTO PRAYER?
You are now invited to read this prayer and to *pause* and read it two or three times.
Let us now pray it to God.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion.
Help us to remove the venom from our judgements.
Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.
You are faithful and trustworthy; may our words be seeds of goodness for the world:
where there is shouting, let us practise listening;
where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;
where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;
where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;
where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;
where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;
where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;
where there is hostility, let us bring respect;
where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.
Amen.

Having reflected on the above Biblical revelations about God,
and how as children of God we are commissioned to go out and witness,
let us ask ourselves this Trinity Sunday,
WHAT THE MANY WAYS IN OUR LIVES WHERE WE ARE CALLED TO WITNESS TO THE TRUTH?
Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

[Readings: <http://usccb.org/bible/readings/052718.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook27052018>]



GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

“...Go therefore
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nations,
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and teaching them to
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And remember,
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