**Prayer Service – Week 8 June 5th 2020**

Welcome to our 8th prayer service as a whole school community during our time of isolation.

In the name of the Father…..

**Opening**

June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pope Francis’ prayer intention for this month is: The way of the Heart: We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus. We celebrated the great feast of Pentecost last Sunday. We are now ‘launched’ back into the church’s Year filled with the Holy Spirit and inspired by the Holy Spirit for all that God asks of us as individuals and as a school community during the year known as Ordinary time.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**cf.Rv1:8**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

the God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

***Reflection*** written by Fr Timothy Menezes (St Chad’s Cathedral)

This Sunday, the Church celebrates Trinity Sunday: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

There are so many aspects of our Christian Life that involve the Holy Trinity, but it all begins

with Baptism.

We are baptised: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

From that, whenever we enter a church, it is our custom to use Holy Water to make the sign

of the Cross, a reminder NOT that I ‘was’ baptised, but that I ‘AM’ baptised; not a date

somewhere in the past, but my life, my faith, my dignity as a Christian every day of my life.

(Play / sing: Song to the Trinity – verse 1)

I wonder how many of you can make associations with that song from your primary school,

your parish, maybe the day of your First Holy Communion or your Confirmation?

The word that helps us to make sense of the Holy Trinity is: RELATIONSHIP.

It could get a bit complicated if you try to look at it in other ways, because:

The Father is God

The Son is God

The Holy Spirit is God.

They are equal, but distinct.

The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Spirit.

They are all in Relationship, and we can find different ways of praying to God through them.

I sometimes find it helpful to think of God the Father as the Creator of everything we see:

Earth, sea, the stars, the sun and moon, human beings, animals and all of the beauty around

us.

God the Son – is Jesus. Perhaps the closest way that we have known God: in his humanity,

as a person who lived on earth: his ministry - healings, miracles, care for the marginalised.

And God the Holy Spirit – maybe, of the three – the most difficult way to grasp God in our

human understanding. But that should never stop us trying.

The Holy Spirit is called the life-giver; it is our inspiration; it gives us joy, peace, patience

and gentleness.

You can’t see the Holy Spirit. But you can’t see electricity; you can’t see air; you can’t see

gravity; you can’t see the Mind. So, not being able to see something does not lessen its

importance in our lives.

(Instrumental break – verse 2 of Song to the Trinity.)

So, just as the Holy Spirit: Father, Son and Holy Spirit is all about relationship, our lives too

are about relationships.

Family

Friends

The communities from which we come.

The neighbourhoods in which we live.

In the past few days, I am sure that you have been aware of the huge demonstrations

following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in the USA.

This all started with the well-documented harm caused by one human being to another, by

kneeling – quite visibly – on his neck, while George Floyd is heard to say: I can’t breathe.

No human being has the right to take the life of another;

No human being has the right to demean another – in any setting.

But what made this situation all the worse is that Black Americans see it is part of an

oppression that goes back to the days of slavery and still exists today.

This then is about the relationship of equality that people feel – or do not feel – within their

own country. They do not feel they are given dignity and equality.

We pray for all affected by this situation at the moment.

I wonder whether you have had reason to think in recent days about the ways in which you

are treated – or you treat others – on account of their appearance.

Sometimes racism, sexism, ageism is deeply rooted within people without them necessarily

being aware of it.

And what about relationships within your family: these can be some of the most important

bonds in our life, and that doesn’t mean they are always easy.

Sometimes you might think your relationship with your family is not as good as other

families. Those comparisons are never very helpful because you don’t see what life is like for

them all the time.

And as we grow up, there is the question of forming new relationships.

Relationships are always best when they are generous; when they speak more about the

other person than about you.

Relationships involve sacrificing ‘what other people think’ so that you can be truly yourself.

Relationships require commitment and faithfulness – which can sometimes seem boring,

rather than the excitement of always beginning new things.

On this weekend of the Holy Trinity, remember these words from the musical Les

Miserables: ‘to love another person is to see the face of God!’.

(Instrumental break Verse 3 Song to the Trinity)

So in our time of prayer today, let us pray for:

Ourselves; that we may always be true to our values, and the Christian values of faith, hope

and love.

Let us pray for our families: those who have given us life; those who are there for us in good

times and bad.

We pray for those from whom we have been separated recently, by the virus: especially

grandparents and other relatives and friends we love.

Let us pray for the people who know us best; those we trust; those who will be honest with

us.

We pray for those who live without hope; that our vision for a brighter future, our taking

the time to care about others more than ourselves, our seeing Christ in others, may make

the world a better and more respectful place for all who are equal in God’s sight.

And today, we can say a prayer that reminds us of that relationship between Father, Son

and Holy Spirit, and that there is a greater wisdom than human knowledge:

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;

world without end. Amen.

And in the words spoken in the Old Testament Book of Numbers, by Moses to Aaron:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on your and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.

Amen.

Let us offer all our prayers to God our Father as we say

*Our Father, who art in Heaven*

*Hallowed be Thy name*

*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done*

*On earth as it is in Heaven*

*Give us this day our daily bread*

*And forgive us our trespasses*

*As we forgive those who trespass against us*

*And lead us not into temptation*

*But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

**Let us say together our school prayer:**

*Christ, you are the centre of our school community*

*Help us to live together in peace*

*Help us to love one another as you have loved us*

*Help us to learn your ways so that the truth will set us free.*

*Amen*

St Thomas Aquinas: Pray for us

 In the name of the Father …..