

# Three persons in ONE GOD – What does it mean?

## GLORY TO THE HOLY AND UNDIVIDED TRINITY, ONE GOD

**“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was at the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”**

This short prayer is perhaps the most profound one there is. It contains Christian faith, in nutshell. It teaches us what God is, and our proper response to God.

The English theologian, Nicholas Lash, wrote a beautiful book on the Apostle's Creed. He called it *Believing Three Ways in One God*. In other words, there are three ways God is. Our Christian tradition has termed them God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. But that does not mean that there are three 'parts' to God. There is a single mystery called God, and in God there are three ways of being.

## GOD AS PERSON

The Christian tradition was anxious from the beginning to stress that God was a living mystery of love, and so it used the language of "person" when it spoke of these three ways in which God is, and that is why we learned to say that there were "three persons in one God."

All this may appear very complex, almost though it were a very advanced form of mathematics, but this is our faith: there are three persons in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let's be careful, for the word 'person' should not get confused with words like 'individual' or 'people.' We are not saying that God is three people, three good old friends. It is indeed a mystery. St Augustine, that famous African theologian of the fourth century put it all very well:

"Because the Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Father, and the Holy Spirit who is also called the gift of God is neither the Father nor the Son, they are certainly three... Yet when you ask "Three what?" Human speech labours under a great dearth of words. So we say three persons, not in order to say that precisely, but in order not to be reduced to silence."

## FATHER, SON AND SPIRIT

God, the first person of the Trinity, is Father and Creator of all that is *ex nihilo* – out of nothing. Jesus Christ, Son of God, is the Redeemer of the world. Jesus Christ, second person of the Trinity, was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. In other words, while we speak of the historical entry of God into human

existence in Jesus' conception and birth or 'the incarnation' when the 'Word was made flesh', there never was a time when God the Son was not. This is all challenging thinking, but essential to our faith, and what we proclaim when we pray the 'Glory be' or the Creed. God is Father, God is Son – always.

Similarly the Holy Spirit, the life giving Lord, the gift of God, the very breath of God, has always been, and will always be.

Human speech does indeed labour under a dearth of words.

## PRAISE - OUR ONLY RESPONSE TO MYSTERY

Yet, as Augustine says, we say three persons 'in order not to be reduced to silence'. We do not understand God, but we believe that in God there are three ways of being. We give glory to this God, for this is our proper response to mystery, the mystery that has always been, is now, and ever shall be.

This God seeks to relate to us, as shown so clearly in the Son, seeks to breathe life and inspiration into us, as Holy Spirit, and yet remains always and everywhere mysterious, totally other. The only proper response to this God is glory and thanksgiving... and at times silence. ■



## A PRAYER

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was at the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

# Stu(S)pace

22 May 2016 – Trinity Sunday Year C



## Three persons in ONE GOD What does it mean?

Season colour: **WHITE**

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## THIS WEEK:

Dr Fainche Ryan invites us on this feast to explore prayerfully the mystery of the Holy Trinity

Today's readings:  
Prov 8:22-31  
Ps 8  
Rom 5:1-5  
Jn 16:12-15



# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## Trinity Sunday – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016

### Masses this week

Mon 9.00am Leitrim  
Mon 7.30pm Dechomet  
Tues 9.00am Dromara  
Wed 7.30pm Leitrim  
Fri 7.30pm Dromara – Exposition after mass

### Sunday Mass times as usual

**Gran Fondo Cycle Race** Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Jun. Due to road closures mass on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> will be 6pm Dechomet, 7pm Dromara and 8pm Leitrim. On Sun 5<sup>th</sup> mass will be 8.30am and 9.30am in Gargory. I apologise for the inconvenience.

**Holidays** I will be in holiday this year from Thur 16<sup>th</sup> Jun until Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Jul. I will also attend a course in Dromantine 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Jun.

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dechomet

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> – James and Mary Catherine Doyle (Closkelt)  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> – Bernard, Margaret and Patrick Doyle

#### Leitrim

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> – Margaret Morgan (MM); Nora McEvoy;  
Catherine Love; Brendan Owens  
Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> – Christopher, Owen and Philomena Rice  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> – Annie, Patrick, Thomas and John Cunningham;  
Denis, Roseann O'Prey and Annie Moorehead  
Sun 29<sup>th</sup> – Joe and Agnes McEvoy

#### Dromara

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> – Hugh and Mary Eleanor McEvoy; Michael Reavey  
Fri 27<sup>th</sup> – Colm Burns  
Sun 29<sup>th</sup> – Vincent and Desmond O'Hare; Seamus and Cecilia McCullough; Barney & Kathleen O'Hare (Finnis)

#### Gargory

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> – Gerry, Peter and Mary Owens

### Offerings

Drumgooland                      £1,134  
Dromara                            £478  
St Michael's Hall donation    £30

### Parish 15<sup>th</sup> May

**We welcome** into Dromara Parish Amelia Lorraine Violet Gibson

**Leitrim Cleaners** w/e 27<sup>th</sup> May Kathleen's Team

**Traditional Music Night** Fri 27<sup>th</sup> May from 8pm in Peter Morgan's Cottage. Music, Song and Supper! All welcome.

**Missionary Sisters of St Columban** – please return any donations by Sun 29<sup>th</sup> May

**SMA Family Fun Day** takes place in Dromantine on Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Jun, from 1.30pm to 6pm. All welcome.

**Canon Gerry McCrory** will celebrate his Golden Jubilee in St Patrick's Church, Ballynahinch on Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Jun at 3.30pm.

### Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Biographical event on the lives of two brothers Captain Tom McAlinden and Fr Denis McAlinden in St Mary's PS, Derrytrasna on Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Jun at 7.30pm.

**Retirement** of Mrs Devlin, Principal of St Matthew's PS at the end of Jun. She has taught in St Matthew's for 35 years. Celebration mass Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Jun at 7pm in Gargory, refreshments in the Club Rooms afterwards. We would like to extend an open invitation to this mass to any past pupils and their families. We plan to make a presentation to Mrs Devlin and if you would like to contribute towards this, please put your donation in an envelope marked retirement and it can be left at the Parochial House or put into the basket during the mass collection.

**First Communion** Congratulations to the children of St Mary's who celebrated their First Holy Communion on Sat.

### Cemetery Sunday – Sun 29<sup>th</sup> May

Gargory Priests' graves after 8.30am mass  
Dromara 12noon; Leitrim 3.00pm; Dechomet 5pm

Parking for the less abled will be reserved as follows:  
Dromara and Leitrim - church car parks  
Dechomet - front of the church (Closkelt Road).  
Please co-operate with those who are generous enough to assist with the parking. Please do not park in a way that blocks a private entrance.  
A collection will be taken up at each service towards the cost of maintain the cemeteries.  
Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches and Scones will be served for Cemetery Sunday, from 10am-2pm, Sun 29<sup>th</sup> May in St Michael's Hall, Finnis. All donations in aid of SVP.

### Parish Draw Winners

£200 Marian Morgan; £100 Audrey O'Hare; £50 David H McKay; Shirley McVeigh; Deirdre Lundy; J & C McCann; £25 John Kelly. £100 for those who paid the full year: Hugh Pat & Vera McGreevy; Sean McElroy; Rena Rice; Brian Doyle; Christine McCartan  
Just over 450 cards were sold (Drumgooland 330, Dromara 120). The prizes will cost £7,000, if everyone stays in the draw it will raise £20,000 for the parishes (£15,000 Drumgooland, £5,000 Dromara). Thanks to all who supported the draw and to the sellers who went out to the houses.

**New Eucharistic Ministers** a meeting for those considering this role in Dromara will be held Wed 26<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm in the parochial house, it will last one hour.

### St Vincent de Paul Helplines

Drumgooland 07979815269 / Dromara 07738838191