

## THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 3

## DEEPER INTO TRUTH

(JOHN 16:12-15)



Fragment of Holy Trinity Column in Budapest

The Gospel extract for our feast today is taken from Jesus' final speech to his disciples, in which he promises that the Holy Spirit will assist them in reaching a deeper understanding of his teaching.

He emphasises the unity between himself and the Father, a theme which has occurred before in John's account. It may well mean that the Spirit will lead the disciples "into the very heart of all truth": we remember that Jesus has described himself as "the way, the truth and the life". Jesus is the Word of God, God's most direct way of reaching out to human beings to invite them (and us) into a personal relationship, characterised by friendship. ■

## DO

Make the sign of the cross: think about the persons of the Trinity as God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.

## SAY

**The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.**

(Romans 5:5)

## LEARN

In the Jewish scriptures, Wisdom is often presented as God's way of creating and revealing God's self to human beings.

At the beginning of John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as God's Word (*logos*) in similar terms to Wisdom in the Jewish writings.

The figure of Wisdom is reflected in Jesus' ministry and teaching in the Fourth Gospel.

## REFLECT

The Fourth Gospel begins by presenting Jesus in its Prologue as the eternal Word of God made flesh. In the course of the narrative, Jesus is depicted in similar terms to the figure of the Wisdom of God in the Jewish Scriptures, which we heard in the first reading from the Hebrew writings in the Book of Proverbs. Wisdom in the Bible (and the wider culture) indicated the ability to achieve a goal or purpose, good or bad. Wisdom is a female figure, presented as God's companion and instrument in creation: this is the figure transformed into the masculine *logos* of the Prologue and applied to Jesus, though he is never referred to in that way in the course of the Gospel.

When we think about the Holy Trinity, we talk about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 'Father' and 'Son' are masculine terms and figures. 'Spirit' in the Hebrew Scriptures is feminine; in the Christian scriptures, it is neuter, neither masculine nor feminine. So, is there perhaps something missing in our idea of the Godhead? We might recall that the most conservative writer in the book of Genesis points out – twice, in case we might miss the point – that God created woman in God's image and likeness. So where is that teaching mirrored in our understanding of the Blessed Trinity?

Strictly speaking, the pronoun used for the Holy Spirit should be 'it', not 'he'. We do not consider it appropriate to refer to any person, even an infant, as 'it'. But suppose we began to talk about the Spirit as 'she': what difference would that make to our understanding of God? It is true that in the Bible the Spirit is often presented in terms of an impersonal enabling power, as in the Acts of the Apostles. But in the Fourth Gospel, Jesus presents the Spirit in more personal terms. In our Gospel reading today, the text says "He will lead you to the complete truth": we would probably be uncomfortable if we heard "It will lead you to the complete truth"; but how would you feel if the reader said, "She will lead you to the complete truth"? And why would you feel that way?

As we contemplate the mystery of the Holy Trinity, we might take this wider biblical perspective into account. ■

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## Feast of The Most Holy Trinity – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Weekday masses

Mon 9:00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet  
Tues 9:00am Dromara  
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim  
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

### Weekend masses

**Sat** 6:00pm Dechomet  
7:30pm Leitrim  
**Sun** 9:00am Gargory  
11:00am Dromara

### Anniversary Masses

#### Gargory

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Seamus Gribben  
Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Noel King

#### Leitrim

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Bernadette Savage  
Deceased Members of the McAleenan  
Family (Ballymagreehan)

### SMA Dromantine, Open Day & Family Fun Day

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Jun 1:00pm to 5:30pm. Everyone Welcome.  
£5 car adm. For more information tel: 02830821964.

**Guided Tour of Newry Cathedral** Wed 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7 pm. The tour will take approximately 90 minutes. Please meet at the main door of the Cathedral. You will hear the story of the building of the Cathedral, 1825-1829, and of the later extensions. The history of its stained glass, marble altars, sculptures and magnificent mosaics will also be explained.

*There is no charge for the tour.*

*Participants are asked to please wear a mask and observe social distancing.*

**Leitrim Cleaners** Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Geraldine's Team

### Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish (29 <sup>th</sup> May)	£179	£745
Parish (5 <sup>th</sup> Jun)	£502	£551
Priest	£875	£1426
Youth Ministry	£182	£315

There is space and a welcome for you at mass. Please know that you are welcome at the weekend masses and during the week.

The past two years has created a huge change in our patterns of living and how we pray. Whilst mass has been available on RTE and streamed at parish level as well as on many platforms, the prayer of being present and receiving Eucharist is the call to all of us.

Whilst covid is still present I the community, it is thankfully safer to gather in church than it was. May I appeal, in particular, to our young people and children, you are always welcome.

**Congratulations to** Fr Tony Owens, who celebrated his Diamond (60<sup>th</sup>) Jubilee of his Ordination. May God continue to give him good health in his working retirement.

**Congratulations to** Sally McKey (Levalleyreagh) who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday recently.

**We welcome** Drumgooland Parish Clodagh Brennan; James Armstrong and Noah Sharpe

### Retreat

I will be away on Retreat from Mon 20<sup>th</sup> June to Wed 29<sup>th</sup> June.

### Holiday

I will be away on holiday from Sun 17<sup>th</sup> July to Fri 5<sup>th</sup> August.