

Sunday Message

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

THE WORD

Year A • 31 May 2026 • Psalter Week 1

TRINITARIAN LOVE

JOHN 3:16-18



The Trinity can sometimes appear like a complicated mathematical puzzle of fitting three persons into one God.

Like Jews and Muslims, Christians believe in one God. Yet the God that Jesus reveals to us is an infinitely rich God who does not dwell in some remote part of the solar system, watching us from a distance, as a once popular song suggested. "In him we live and move and have our being," St Paul preached in the city of Athens. This God has drawn near to us in the human form of Jesus, God's Son and Word, and continues to be present to us through his Spirit.

Today's Gospel is part of a longer story of a meeting between Jesus and a Jewish leader called Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a good man searching for the kingdom of God. Jesus' message to him was simple. It is not a question of whether human beings can find their way to God, but that God has found the way to come near to them and to give them a mysterious rebirth through the Spirit. "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not be lost but have eternal life."

The secret mystery of the Trinity is that God is Love, a love that needs so much to express itself that it takes a human body and identifies with us in our weakness. The cross is the sign of how deep that love goes and, when we sign ourselves with it, we do so in the name of Father, Son and Spirit. When we were brought into the new birth of baptism, it was in the name of that same Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Spirit. ■

REFLECT

As Christians, baptised in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we seek to see everything as a manifestation of God's love, a love that is reflected in the three persons of the Holy Trinity. In 2015, Pope Francis published his wonderful encyclical, *Laudato Si'* – on care for the earth, our common home. "Each creature has its own purpose," Pope Francis writes. "None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God."

A caress of God is a beautiful image. We must open our eyes and hearts to see all creation as being 'a caress of God'. Think of how we would treat the earth and each other if we saw every created thing with the eyes of love. That's how God sees it, as we are told in the book of Genesis: God saw all that he had made and found it very good. God has created us in his own image and likeness. Seeing every created thing with the eyes of love, we would treat everything with respect and care and tenderness. We would respond to the Trinitarian God of love by living lives of love. ■



DO

Make the Sign of the Cross at the beginning and end of each day and before and after each meal. Think about what it means.

LEARN

The three persons in the Holy Trinity are three distinct persons, but they are so in love with each other, so wrapped up in each other, so connected to each other, they are perfectly one. Their communion is so strong, their intimacy so great, the three become one while never losing their individuality. God is an eternal exchange of infinite love.

SAY

"Lord, help me and my family to live like the three persons of the Blessed Trinity, united in love. Amen."

PRAY

Each of us is called to love God and our neighbour with all our mind, heart, soul, and strength. Jesus makes it clear that this is the first and the greatest of the commandments. Pray to be able to love like that.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Blest be God the Father,
and the Only Begotten Son of God,
and also the Holy Spirit,
for he has shown us his merciful love.*

COLLECT

God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

In those days: Moses rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.'

And Moses quickly bowed his head towards the earth and worshipped. And he said, 'If now I have found favour in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Daniel 3:52. 53. 54. 55. 56. R. 52b

R. To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

1. Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestors.

R. To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

2. Blessed is your glorious and holy name.

R. To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

3. Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory.

R. To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

4. Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom.

R. To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

5. Blessed are you who look into the depths, seated upon the cherubim.

R. To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

6. Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven.

R. To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL cf. Revelation 1:8

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the God who is and who was and who is to come.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 3:16-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify by the invocation of your name, we pray, O Lord our God, this oblation of our service, and by it make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Since you are children of God,
God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May receiving this Sacrament, O Lord our God, bring us health of body and soul, as we confess your eternal holy Trinity and undivided Unity. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: St Anthony's Presbytery,
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Tel: 01772 725193
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Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Dawson
Annexe: 07792 256592
Social Centre: 01772 735963
Primary School: 01772 726621
Playgroup/Preschool: 07963 700591

Holy Family

Whitby Avenue, Ingol, Preston PR2 3YP
Tel: 01772 725193
Priest-in-Charge: Fr Andrew Dawson
(Resident at St Anthony's)
Primary School: 01772 727471
Covenant Books: 07396 796969
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Confession): On Request

Mass Schedule for week commencing Sunday 31 st May			Intention
Sunday 31st May – The Most Holy Trinity			
Today we shall use the preface of Trinity Sunday with the third Eucharistic Prayer			
Saturday 6pm (Sunday Vigil)	Mass at St Anthony's		Jane Proctor
Sunday 9:30am	Mass at St Anthony's	<i>Trinity Sunday</i>	The People of our Parishes
Monday 12 noon	Mass at St Anthony's	<i>St Justin</i>	SVP Regional Mass
Tuesday 9.15am	Mass at St Anthony's		Robbie Hassan (RIP)
Wednesday	No Mass	<i>St Charles Lwanga & comps</i>	
Thursday 9.15am	Mass at HF School		LISCF
Friday 9.15am	Mass at St Anthony's	<i>St Boniface</i>	John Shaw (Anniv)
Sunday 7th June – Corpus Christi			
Saturday 6pm (Sunday Vigil)	Mass at St Anthony's		Sabina McDonagh (Anniv)
Sunday 9:30am	Mass at St Anthony's	Corpus Christi	The People of our Parishes
Sunday 11am	Mass at HF School		David Fogell (LD)

Last Weekend:
Attendance St Anthony's: 92 + 125 = 217
Collections St Anthony's: £394.73 + £215 (Cards)

Scan the QR code below to donate to the weekly collection online (St Anthony's)



Confessions: At St Anthony's 5:30-5:50pm Saturdays.

Baptism and Marriage: If you are a parent and would like to have your child baptised or are hoping to get married either in this parish or elsewhere (minimum six months' notice for weddings is required), please speak to Fr Andrew at the end of Mass.

Tea and Coffee: You are welcome to join us for some light refreshments after each of our Sunday Masses – 6pm (Saturday) and 9:30 at St Anthony's.

Prayer intentions

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for June: For the values of sports.

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

Cycle of Prayer: Ordinary Time, Summer: For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; for those who suffer persecution, oppression and the denial of their human rights; for Europe; for human life and for seafarers.

We pray for the sick and the elderly, especially Jo Counsel, Bill Embery and John Mulholland.

For those who have died recently, especially Andy Greenwood, Jean Dunn, Joan Hughes, Keith Battersby and Canon Seamus Flannery and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Brian Davies, Maria Feldwick, Vincent Gale, Joseph Gildert, Gerald Hadyn Curwen, Leslie Curwen, Jack Burke, Gerald Wilding, Louise Baxendale, Bill Carling, Gerald Ibison, Robert Bradley, Ian Speight. Sabina McDonagh, Norah Stanton, Teresa Clarkson, Peter Clayton, Mary Wignall.

Father, may these, and all whom we have known who have gone before us, be received into the glory of the resurrection, won for us by your Son, Jesus, the Risen Lord.

OUR PARISHES

The Funeral for the late Jean Christina Dunn will be on Monday 8th June at 11.15am. The Requiem Mass for the late Andy Greenwood will be on Friday 19th June at 10am. The funeral for the Late Keith Battersby will also be on Friday 19th June at 1.30 (at Preston Crematorium). The funeral for the Late Joan Hughes will be on Monday 22 June at 12.30. May they rest in peace.



Testament – Wednesday 3rd June at 7pm: Continue to watch as the early church comes alive as a small group of followers of Jesus starts to spread the Good News of the Resurrection. They face opposition, imprisonment and worse, but their numbers grow as they fulfil Jesus' command to make disciples throughout the whole world.

The Fairtrade and Rwanda Stall will be at St Anthony's next weekend, with a new selection of various greeting cards.

St Anthony's Feast Day, 14 June 2026

Discover what makes your parish tick ...

After 9.30 Mass, come over to the Social Centre 10.30-12.30

Find out what's happening in your parish,
meet the groups, explore parish activities
and see how you can get involved

*'Lost & Found' Singers - Refreshments - Cake sale -
Raffle - Please bring some spending money!*

St Anthony's Gutters: Please continue to keep clear of the fencing around the scaffolding and avoid bringing a vehicle to St Anthony's if possible whilst the work on the rainwater goods continues.

Holy Family Parish Update: The meeting at Preston City Council was informative and encouraging and together with a small group of parishioners we are looking at options for the future and preparing a full survey of the buildings. In the meantime, there is an open invitation to attend Mass at St Anthony's and there will be a monthly Mass at 11am in Holy Family School on the first Sunday of the month (next one: 7th June – the Feast of Corpus Christi).

Thanks: A letter has been received from Michelle Oakford, head of Supporter Relations as CAFOD thanking parishioners at Holy Family Parish for their support of CAFOD and the donation of £165.00 received recently.

Hospital Visits: If you or someone you know is going into hospital and would like a visit from the chaplaincy team please either contact Fr Andrew or the chaplaincy department directly on 01772 0716565 (ask for chaplaincy). An urgent request for a priest should be made to a senior nurse who will arrange for the on-call priest to be contacted.

Did you know? Our parish purchases its energy through **Interdiocesan Fuel Management (IFM)**, which is owned by all the dioceses in England & Wales and parts of Scotland. Together with Catholic parishes, schools and dioceses across England and Wales, and in response to Pope Francis' call to care for our common home in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* we purchase 100% renewable electricity and 88% green gas, supporting the Church's commitment to care for creation.

OUR CITY AND DIOCESE

THIS WEEK

An opportunity for Catholic doctors to meet and support each other in their faith and vocation at 1pm on 6th June. A light lunch in the Cathedral library will be followed by a talk on 'The Art of Dying Well' by Dr Amy Gadoud. Please email cathedral@lrcd.org.uk to confirm attendance.

Corpus Christi Procession Sunday 7th June: commencing at St Walburges' Shrine Church at 2pm

Preston's Orpheus Choir: You are invited to experience Vivaldi's Gloria on Saturday 6th June. There is a Come and Sing afternoon from 2pm-6pm, (£15/£8) and/or the performance at 7pm. (£10). St Leonard's Church, Marshalls Brow, Penwortham.

FURTHER AHEAD

Canon Seamus Flannery passed away on 12th May. A diocesan Requiem Mass is to be held on Tuesday 9th June at 7.00pm at St Mary's, Ulverston. All welcome.

Visit of the Relics of St Gerard Majella: A national tour organised by the Redemptorists. St Gerard is the patron saints of mothers, those trying to conceive and making a good confession. There's two opportunities to learn more about this saint, to venerate his relics and seek his intercession. 6pm on Monday 15th June at **Lancaster Cathedral** with time for personal prayer and an opportunity for confession, 7pm Mass. See poster for details; and Friday 19th June 5.30pm-6.20pm at **St Joseph's, Preston** followed by Mass at 6.30pm. After Mass there will be an opportunity to be blessed with the relics. See the poster for details.

Fatima Day: The World Apostolate of Fatima are touring the cathedrals of England and Wales to spread the message of Our Lady at Fatima. They'll be in Lancaster on Saturday 20th June beginning with Mass at 12.15pm. For full programme please see poster.

Preston Guild 2032: The City Council is preparing to appoint a coordinator to begin preparations for the 2032 Guild, and the Churches in Preston would like to pull together a core team to feed ideas etc. into that role. If you are interested, or want to know more information, please contact stephen.garsed@gmail.com.

Churches Together Evening Stroll, Wednesday, 24th June, meeting at The Continental 7:00pm for 7:15pm. The looped route will take in the new tram bridge pausing on the way for reflections, finishing at The Continental for a drink. Everyone is welcome.

Join Bishop Swarbrick on the London March for Life on September 5th 2026. SPUC Preston Branch want to arrange a coach with pick up in Preston. Please register your interest by contacting the secretary on 07523 183758 or at spucpreston@gmail.com.