

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Most Holy Trinity, Year C
15 June, 2025
John 16:12-15

Catechist Background

Many great saints have struggled to understand the Trinity: it is a mystery, not something spooky or a case to be solved, but something beyond our comprehension. The word 'Trinity' does not appear in Scripture but it is a concept found throughout the Old and New Testaments: i.e. Jesus tells his apostles to baptise 'in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.' The Trinity is one of the things that Jesus may have meant in today's Gospel reading, something the Spirit of Truth has led us to understand. In the reading we see the Trinity at work: Jesus is telling his disciples how he is related to the Spirit, and how each relates to the Father. He says that the Spirit will speak 'on his own authority' and will speak what 'he hears'. Plus, the Spirit will declare to them "what is mine" (Jesus') and that "all that the Father has is mine". So, we know that when the Spirit speaks to us through the apostles, we hear Jesus, and through him, we hear the Father. They speak as one to us today.

Setting the Scene

Although we are now back in Ordinary Time (which has green as its colour), today is an important feast associated with Jesus and so the liturgical colour is white (and gold).

- Remind the children that last Sunday was Pentecost, and that the Holy Spirit is very important.
- Explain that today is also a special feast called 'Trinity Sunday';
- Ask if any of them can explain what they think 'Trinity' means;
 - It may help to discuss the terms we use when talking about the Trinity - like 'three Persons in one God' or 'Father,' 'Son,' and 'Holy Spirit.'

We Say Sorry

Leader: You care for us like a loving Father, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You save us from our sins, Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You inspire us to follow you, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God our Father, you sent your Son to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us holy. Help us to worship you, one God in three Persons by living out our love for you.

Gospel Intro

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: John 16:12-15

Reflecting on the Gospel reading with Children

- Ask the children what happens when we add 1+1+1? Normally we get 3.
- But when we talk about God, we are talking about God the Father (1), God the Son (1), and God the Holy Spirit (1), but we say that still equals just One God!
 - Also, we say that none of these three 'persons' is more important than the others.
- Some people talk about knowing God in three ways (but remembering there is only one God):

- a. *God who is in charge of us:*
 - Who do we know who, like God, loves us and cares for us? [*parents, childminders, teachers, grandparents...*]
 - We might sometimes feel God's love from those who look after us.
- b. *God who is next to us.*
 - Who do we know who, like God, loves us and is our equal? [*friends, siblings, cousins...*]
 - We might sometimes feel God's love from those who are on the same footing as us.
- c. *God who is inside of us.*
 - We might sometimes feel God's love from inside our own hearts and minds,
 - This might help us be brave or loving (or anything brought up in last Sunday's session).
- Link this with Pentecost last week: the Holy Spirit helps us understand and act on what Jesus tells us: that God the Father loves us.

Response

- Arrange the children in groups of three;
- One child in the group will be Jesus, one will be the Holy Spirit; the third will play themselves;
- The leader will be God the Father, and will go to each 'Jesus' to tell them a word like 'love' or 'friendship' or 'kindness';
- 'Jesus' will tell the word to the 'Holy Spirit' who will tell the third child.
- Get the children to swap roles until everyone has played all three parts.
- Make sure that people speak clearly or the activity will disintegrate into Chinese Whispers!
- The point of the activity is to make the words clear and easy to hear.

We Believe

Relating the Creed to what you have shared with the children, ask these questions and invite them to reply: 'I do.'

- Do you believe that God the Father is Lord?
- Do you believe that God the Son, Jesus, is Lord?
- Do you believe that God the Holy Spirit is Lord?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying: 'We know that the Father and the Son have sent the Holy Spirit to help us, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for all the people who are leaders in the Church, that they may help everyone give glory to God. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for world leaders, that they may help us live lives that are holy. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people in the world who do not know that God loves them. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for this parish community, that we may be full of the Spirit. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, we know you are in us, with us, and watching over us. Please hear our prayers and keep our eyes open to see your love everywhere. We make our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**