



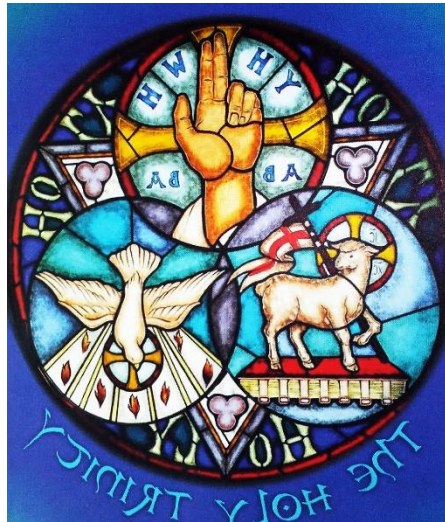
ALL SAINTS' ⁵ CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY — May 26, 2024

Reflecting on Our Common Heritage with the Son



Trinity Sunday, which is the Sunday after Pentecost, always reminds us of God's Son—Jesus Christ Our Lord—as coeternal with the Father, and God's Holy Spirit.

We know that the doctrine of the Holy Trinity was a gradual development in the history of the Christian Church, and although some New Testament texts give us some glimpse of it, we cannot be sure that these references were not a further addition after the fourth century, when the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople finally settled the disputes about Christ's nature.

The fact is that it is now an essential part of our common belief as Christians, although any attempt to rationalize it will always fall short, simply because it is one of the greatest mysteries of our faith: one God that becomes known to us humans in three Persons.

Efforts have been made to label each Person with one main feature: the Creator, the Redeemer, the Comforter, but as has been noted by several scholars, in reality we can see each of the Persons acting out any of these three features interchangeably in God's plan of salvation.

The most controversial aspect in the history of Christianity has always been the Son's nature: equal or not equal to the Father?

We might think that not recognizing the Son's nature as equal to the Father's is but a nonsensical heresy, but the fact is that for centuries this controversy raged on, and there was a time when those who did not recognize it were represented a significant percentage in the Christian Church.

Even nowadays there are certain believers who see themselves as Christian—although Trinitarian Christians do not acknowledge them as such—but do not believe in a Trinitarian God.

This doctrine has become part and parcel of our common belief in most mainline Christian denominations, and its public confession is now seen as a sign that a person is a true Christian.

But confessions of faith—as important as they may be to keep the unity of the Church—unless they have real impact on people's daily lives, will not do much to transform us into what God has always meant us to be: His image and likeness.

Proclaiming that Jesus Christ was God's Son meant for the Jewish people that He and God were the same. When a father publicly said, "this is my son" in that society, he was not simply referring to an offspring of the male sex, he was acknowledging that this person was like himself, and he was proud to proclaim it. Sonship was not recognized until the male offspring came of age.

This is the reason why for some Jews who followed the orthodoxy of Judaism, Jesus calling himself God's Son, especially when He used the familiar term "Abba" to refer to God, sounded extremely offensive.

Sonship in the society in which Jesus lived, and in later times, could also be achieved through adoption. When someone affirmed that a person who was not their offspring was their son, they were publicly adopting that person, and this person had the same rights as a natural son.

In this sense, the New Testament writers refer to Jesus' true followers, as God's adopted children, and though it may sound as "second-class children" to modern ears, this was not the case in those times.

As St. Paul points out in his letter to the Romans, if we are true followers and have received His Spirit, we call God "Abba", just like Jesus did, and "if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."

The suffering does not necessarily refer to Jesus' crucifixion—although some of Jesus' followers were in fact crucified—but to the persecutions and sacrifices that being a true follower of Jesus' radical Way of Love implied then, and still in many cases imply nowadays.

Reflecting on what it really means that we have become God's children, and acting on what this statement implies, can help transform our lives more and more into Christ's likeness, so that we can genuinely call God "Abba", and also become one with the Holy Trinity in whose name we have been baptized.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for Trinity Sunday: Exodus 3:1-6 Canticle 2 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-16

CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday during Lent Great Litany, Via Crucis held in All Saints' Church

SUNDAY May 26, 2024 Trinity Sunday

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Adult Christian Formation meets this Sunday May 26 at noon in the

Rector's Office and Library

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class on Thursdays, from 1pm-3pm in the Library

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY **June 2, 2024 The Second Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Adult Christian Formation will meet next on Sunday June 23 at noon in the Rector's Office and Library

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San
Diego www.allsaintschurch.org