

# TRINITY NEWS

## Pentecost XIV The Last Secret: Listening

“The last secret is to learn the art of listening”.

“You want to learn how to pray? Listen until you hear something”. This was the advice of a novice master who was “a mixture of earth and sky.” Thirty years later the young novice that he spoke to had learned how to listen.

What did the disciples hear when they really listened to Christ?

“This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

What does it mean when Christ commands us to love one another?

Love cannot be commanded, it can only be imitated.

Love is a voluntary trust.

It is not so much an act; not even a sexual act. We speak of “making love,” but that is only true when the act goes with respect and real love, not the use of a person. Love is an ultimate trust, a significant identity marker, longing to be with someone without whom we would feel incomplete.

Love is the ultimate voluntary expression of being human.

Love can only be asked by someone who can give love.

There is no greater love than sacrificial love.

“No greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13). This is a much tougher verse than the preceding verse 12. It is about the Christ and the offering of undiluted love at the Cross. It contemplates the cost of real love.

Christ's command to love implies imitation. Christ's call to love as sacrifice implies the Cross. Love cannot be purchased on the street. It is only revealed in "heart speaking to heart". That is far more costly!

Teaching without walking in front of the words as an example is empty. When we walk through the valley of dark shadows we find out those in whom we can invest our trust.

"The Bible is against the world," says a seminary student. It is not life-denying, but it is against false expressions that deceive ourselves and wound others. It is particularly against false love and the use of people to justify our falseness. No one is guiltless in this inept behaviour. St. Thomas Moore said, "what you cannot turn to good you must make as little bad as you can."

St Thomas Moore was executed because of his thinking and his refusal to compromise his own conscience. His murder was a low point of the reformation and its aftermath. It produced a saint and showed up the dark side of his accusers. He was a prisoner of conscience and so was Jesus.

Let the listening begin! May our 'aboriginal conscience' (Newman) remain!

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

## **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:31-37

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## **THIS WEEK:**

*September 4, Tuesday.*

- Bible Study, 10am
- Group Discussion, 7:30pm @ the Tutton's

*September 6, Thursday.*

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel



## **NEXT WEEK:**

Sunday School starts (enrollment forms are available at the church entrance).