

TRINITY NEWS

Trinity Sunday 2014 Triple Presence and Indissoluble Unity

The Hebrew term for a Divine society within God is Elohim. It is a plural noun. It may have been an access for Hebrew Christians to the notion of a Divine society that Christians called the Blessed and Glorious Trinity. The Spirit of God **is** God in Judaism. They saw God as One irreducible entity of awesome Power and Eternal Being.

But Christianity has the Abba of Jesus, Jesus himself, and the Paraclete, God's Counsellor, who until the death of Jesus is linked to him. John's Gospel says Paraclete, the remembered voice of God's guidance after Jesus in the world. Luke in Acts of the Apostles speaks of "the Spirit of Jesus" (Acts 16:7), and describes Jesus pouring out the Spirit at Pentecost.

All of this led the Christians to speak of Father, Son and Spirit and to call this Trinity or the threefold Revelation of God held in one society of Eternal Being. One God didn't go away but the landscape on the 'Mountain' of God now included Three Divine Entities melded into one God. The Latin and Greek Fathers were poetic about it, especially Gregory of Nyssa. But the mystery of God got lost in the complexities of theological definition. It was an earlier version of the 20th century attempts to describe the subterranean caverns of the human unconscious in the Psyche. That is, cleverly complex and usually incomprehensible. But all of these futile analyses of God's nature did produce one huge insight. **That is, through their participation in Christ human beings carry a mirror image of God in Trinity and the possibility of a transformed humanity.**

The Apostle Paul realised this when in Romans 8 he used his spiritual gift of perception to perceive Abba, Christ Jesus as he called the Risen Lord, and the Holy Spirit dwelling in us as a diverse unity.

We can experience the Trinity of God, but we cannot describe it. We can be engulfed in its glory and yet not see it. We send our prayers to this

Divine Society and believe that they are carried by the Spirit, the Go-Between God, into the unsearchable process at the heart of the mystery of God that listens to all of us. Paying attention to God makes us aware that God is paying attention to us. Listening to God makes us aware that God is listening to us. Thomas Aquinas thought that it all began with *Abba*, Father, the *Principium*, the Primal Origin and Creator of everything, down to the last atom and the first and last thoughts of humanity.

But for us in the 21st century perhaps it is better to begin with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us to *Abba* and brings the Divine Triad into our souls so that we can follow it into heaven. Heaven is in us if we are intent enough to welcome it. And the centre of heaven is the God who loves us. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. But sometimes it proceeds from within us when the Divine Society dwells within us and communicates with us and links us to the Universe created by God. Then we are instantly alert and yet utterly calm and unafraid. Amen, Amen, Amen.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

June 16, Monday.

- Finance Meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

June 18, Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Discussion Group, 7:30pm, Parish Office.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69; Romans 5:15b-19; Matthew 10:24-33