

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 24
June 12, 2022

Happy Trinity Sunday!

A church's patron saint is supposed to represent to some extent at least the aspirations of the parish community, to embody their spirit, their identity. That's relatively easy if you have a particular saint as your dedication – every saint on the calendar has some traits, some qualities we all, as Christians, aspire to.

But if your Church has a dedication like ours, to the Holy Trinity, it's a lot more problematic. We're not talking here about a human being, but about God himself, whose perfection is eternally beyond our reach – that's daunting.

However, I think that when we understand the social nature of God as Trinity, we can certainly identify at least three attributes that can serve as a model for how we conceive of our community life.

First of all, God as Trinity is Being-in-relationship, and that relationship is one of mutual, self-giving Love. Through Christ we participate in that relationship, not only, or even principally as individuals, but as a community as well. The more we realize that love in our common life, the more fully God's love takes root among us, and only that can be the basis of any real growth.

Secondly, God is Dynamic Being; the movement within the Trinity is directed towards the other: God is not eternal stillness, eternal sameness (which is indistinguishable from nothingness), but constant motion: our participation in the life of God through Christ is called in Greek, *perchoresis* which translates "circle-dance!" an image of festive joy; that joy should characterize our common life.

And finally, this dynamic inner life expresses itself in Creative Being: the love spills over into the void and fills it with being and light. Creation is part of what God is, implicit in the Love that God is. The simple expression of that in our situation, not to keep our mutual love and joy to ourselves, but to urge all we meet to come share with us the love we share with God and with each other. That is the only foundation of true growth, as a congregation and as a Church.

So, all in all, the name we have, the name we must live into, is perhaps the most challenging of all. And that is a good thing.

June 12 Psalm. TRINITY SUNDAY.

Response: *we will praise thee and highly exalt thee for ever.*

Glory to thee, Lord God of our fathers; * thou art worthy of praise; glory to thee. Glory to thee for the radiance of thy holy Name; *

Response: *we will praise thee and highly exalt thee for ever.*

Glory to thee in the splendor of thy temple; * on the throne of thy majesty, glory to thee. Glory to thee, seated between the Cherubim; *

Response: *we will praise thee and highly exalt thee for ever.*

Glory to thee, beholding the depths; * in the high vault of heaven, glory to thee. Glory to thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *

Response: *we will praise thee and highly exalt thee for ever.*

SAINTS:

Richard of Chichester. 16 June

Richard de Wych, or of Droitwich as it is now known, was born there in 1197 and worked hard for his yeoman father to restore the family fortunes. Later he studied at Oxford and Paris and then in Bologna as an ecclesiastical lawyer. When he returned to England in 1235, he was made Chancellor of Oxford and eventually Chancellor to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Edmund of Abingdon. When Richard eventually became Bishop of Chichester, he was seen as a model diocesan bishop: progressing around his diocese on foot, visiting and caring for his clergy and people, generally being accessible to all who needed his ministry. He insisted that the sacraments be administered without payment and with a proper dignity. Whilst on a recruitment campaign for the Crusades, he fell ill at Dover and died there on 3 April 1253 and his mortal remains were translated to Chichester on this day in the year 1276.

Bernard Mizeki, Apostle of the MaShona. 18 June

Born in Portuguese East Africa, Bernard Mizeki went to work in Cape Town and there he was converted to the Christian faith by the Cowley Fathers. He then gave his life as a translator and evangelist among the MaShona in what is present-day Zimbabwe. He was murdered on this day in 1896 in a tribal uprising and is revered throughout Central Africa as a witness to the gospel of Christ.