



## RCIA

Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults  
Holy Trinity and The Father



Opening Prayer



### God Is Infinite, We Are Finite

- Through reasoning, we come to know about the existence of God
- Only through revelation, we can come to know about the inner-life of God
- Reason alone cannot bridge from an infinite supreme being to an finite imperfect being



### God Is Infinite, We Are Finite

- Story of St Augustine and the boy on the beach
- “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)



### Holy Trinity

- There is one God with one, divine nature, but there are 3 distinct divine persons (*hypostases*) : Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- Not 3 Gods, for God is almighty and perfect
- A Mystery
- References to the Holy Trinity in the Bible ...

#### Matthew 3:16-17

And when Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’


#### Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



### Works of the Holy Trinity (Appropriation)

- Father: Creation
- Son: Redemption
- Holy Spirit: Sanctification




### Holy Trinity

- God the Father is the creator
- God the Son and the Father are co-eternal
  - The sun does not pre-exist the sunlight
  - We see the sun through the sunlight it emits: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9)
- God the Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son

### Question

- In which book of the Bible was the Holy Trinity first mentioned?
  - The "Trinity" was not explicitly mentioned in the Bible.
  - The Holy Spirit revealed the Trinity to us via the First Council of Constantinople (381 AD)
  - The Persons of Father, Son and Holy Spirit was first mentioned in Genesis 1:1-2



### Genesis 1:1-2

"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters."


- John 1:1-3
 

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being."
- In Hebrew, wind = *ruah*
  - Also translated as "Spirit of God".
- "Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness" (Gen 1:26)
- See also Gen 18:1-2, where the Lord appeared to Abraham as "three men".




### Trinitarian of salvation history


- Old Testament times
  - Age of the Father
- Gospel times
  - Age of the Son
- Post-Gospel times
  - Age of the Spirit



### Holy Trinity – Analogous Imagery

- 3 overlapping circles, 3 circles but 1 shape.
 


- St Patrick's image of a shamrock
 





### Holy Trinity – Analogous Imagery

- St Ignatius of Loyola’s image of 3 musical notes played simultaneously
- A triangle
- H2O existing as water, steam and ice
- A women relating to people around her as wife, mother, friend



### God The Father

- First Person of the Holy Trinity
- Work of Creation
- God created all things



### The Creation Story (Gen 1:1-2:3)

- Day 1: Day and Night
- Day 2: Sea and Sky
- Day 3: Land, Sea and Vegetation
- Day 4: Sun and Moon
- Day 5: Fishes and Birds
- Day 6: Beasts and Human
- Day 7: Holy Day (“Sabbath”)

### Genesis 2: 7.21-22 (Creation of man and woman)

7 Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.



### The Image of God

- We are God’s children
- We are created in the his image
- Genesis 1:27-28

### Genesis 1: 27-28

27 So God created humankind **in his image**, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’



### God The Creator

- God *creates*, *sustains* and *resides* in all things
- E.g. God is like this data projector, and we the image it projects:
  - God creates: the images would not exist if not of the projector.
  - God sustains: the projector holds the image in existence.
  - God resides: The light from the projector produces the image, giving the projector a real presence on the screen



### God Loves

- He loves us like a loving parent
- Isaiah 49:15-16

**Isaiah 49:15-16**  
 “15 Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. 16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.



### God Loves


- God loves us infinitely more than even our parents love us and infinitely more than we can ever love ourselves
- Jesus addresses God the Father as “Abba”, similar to “Daddy” in English.






### God Loves

- We are divided in our love. E.g. we may like a person very much (90%) or in an ordinary way (50%) or very little (20%)
- God does not measure love. God cannot but love totally i.e. 100%
- We *have* love, but God *is* love





**Tea Break**






### Discussion

- Discuss your experience of God the Father through the following?
  - Birth of a child
  - Animals
  - Nature
- Discuss your experience of loving and being loved.
- How is being created in the image of God relevant to our experience of love?




"Seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand." Matthew 13:13





### Recap

- God is Infinite
- Holy Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- First Person of the Holy Trinity
- Work of Creation
- God Loves




### Q&A


### RCIA Commitment

- Attendance at all evening sessions
  - Evening sessions on every Tuesday, 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Please be punctual.
- Attendance at all weekend masses (from Week 7)
- Inform RCIA Coordinator (Howard) if you are unable to attend any session.
- Support and pray for each other




## Contacts

- Name list will be prepared at the end of this Pre-Catechumenate (Finding Out) period
- In the meantime, any questions/problems/issues, contact:  
 Howard Ong Neicha Sequira  
 Mobile: 0412 177 378      Mobile: 0405 592 429  
 Home: 9455 6447      Home: 9332 0563  
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 Alternatively, you may also contact the Parish Priest.




## Further Readings

- *Path Through Catholicism*  
 (ISBN 0-7829-0971-X)  
 Chapter 5



## Notices



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## Closing Prayer – The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be Thy name;  
 Thy kingdom come;  
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil. Amen.



## GLORIFY THY NAME

Father, we love You  
 We worship and adore You  
 Glorify Thy Name in all the earth

Glorify Thy Name  
 Glorify Thy Name  
 Glorify Thy Name in all the earth

Jesus, we love You  
 We worship and adore You  
 Glorify Thy Name in all the earth

Glorify Thy Name  
 Glorify Thy Name  
 Glorify Thy Name in all the earth

