



SUNDAY 26 MAY 2024  
DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

**The Parishes of:** Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington  
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

Trinity Sunday (B): Matthew 28: 16-20

Do you like a good mystery? You'd be hard put to beat my mate Ben. He likes nothing better than to pit his wits against any crime or thriller mystery writer out there. He thrives on crosswords, Soduko and its spin-offs and you might find the puzzle page of a newspaper in his pocket for days. It was the Rubik's Cube that started him off as a kid in the 1970s. He's never looked back.

He'll absorb novels and TV programmes, the more intriguing the better. There's no time or patience for those who turn to the final chapter to discover who the killer was. Stay with the story, be an amateur sleuth and notice any clues along the way. He doesn't like to give in or give up.

We were having a round table discussion about Gospel readings when the mystery of the Trinity came up. I'm not sure yet if he accepts this is a mystery we're not going to resolve. Attempts are disappointing, Ben would tell you, and repeating the language of 'three in one' and the story of St Patrick and his shamrock, just doesn't do it for him.

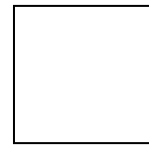
The Trinity is not a puzzle to be solved but a revelation to be delighted about. Jesus shows God to us using the image of Father, the initiator of life and love. He portrays the Father's tenderness and compassionate care in how he relates to people. Total love defies adequate description. Language fails ultimately. Love has to express itself - the Son is the mirror image of the Father.

Our Almighty God is captured for us in the human words and gestures of his Son Jesus.

The love between Father and Son we come to know as the Holy Spirit - God's ever present way of being with us now. The tradition of the Church describes madly and wonderfully the inner life of the God of three persons as a dance of love.

We're astoundingly blessed to share in God's life. Rightly understood this fuels our working for others. We are God's agents, translating pious religious language into the care that people need to feel and see being actioned. Words on a page need to be massaged into life by us who read and hear them.

Our God is beyond our understanding. But the experience of being loved and loving others speaks a language that has no barriers. We're always being loved by God. Always have been. Blessed be God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



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Pope Francis on love's details

The common life, whether in the family, the parish, the religious community or any other, is made up of small everyday things. This was true of the holy community formed by Jesus, Mary and Joseph, which reflected in an exemplary way the beauty of the Trinitarian communion. It was also true of the life that Jesus shared with his disciples and with ordinary people.

Let us not forget that Jesus asked his disciples to pay attention to details. The little detail that wine was running out at a party, the little detail that one sheep was missing. The little detail of noticing the widow who offered her two small coins. The little detail of having spare oil for the lamps, should the bridegroom delay. The little detail of asking the disciples how many loaves of bread they had. The little detail of having a fire burning and fish cooking as he waited for the disciples at day-break.

A community that cherishes the little details of love, whose members care for one another and create an open and evangelising environment, is a place where the risen Lord is present, sanctifying it in accordance with the Father's plan.

**- Rejoice and Be Glad—paras 143-145**