

Homily – Trinity Sunday – 30th May 2021

Ecstasy... having a moment in your life which is ecstatic; not to do with drugs which are a false way of generating happiness; but a time in your life when you were carried away with being happy; being overwhelmed and consumed by love and togetherness and the awesome majesty of life.

Rubens, when he created the image of the Trinity, described it in art as the three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit sitting around a table together, in unadulterated and ecstatic love. A whirling Dervish of ecstatic love where everything is possible and nothing nasty gets in the way.

(Jesus often had his special moment at a shared meal.)

Talking of tables and meals, perhaps for many of us, a moment of ecstasy is being around a table with those we love, whether its Christmas, or Easter, a birthday or the time of our First Holy Communion or that special holiday or the time we got engaged, as the sunset on the beach at Gran Canaria.

Heavenly love, joy and even mirth come flowing out of us when we are in the company of those we love; and I mean those we really love. Where we are free from nervous inhibition, guilt or doubt, or any hurts or grudges.

The Trinity is the image of perfect love in the one true God, God as ultimate creator, God as incarnate saviour and God as spiritual sustainer of that eternal covenant.

Like any true loving relationship, we must remember that it took place in time, in that it was revealed to us over time. The history of that love relationship with God comes home to us over thousands of years. – a God, as Moses teaches us is also a God from ages past.

What we find hard to do is to be patient in seeking and finding that ecstatic bond of love with the Trinitarian God. The seed of that bond is planted at Baptism, the compassion of it is found in confession, the joy of that communal love is experienced at Holy Communion and then the commissioning of the love affair with God is given to us at Confirmation. All sacraments of belonging. the problem with humanity is that it is not prepared to wait, to be patient.

It wants the ecstasy of the sacramental celebration but it does not want the formation, the growing in wisdom, the commitment of serve and self-sacrifice. We don't have the patience of Simeon to wait in the Temple to gaze upon the face of the child Jesus. We don't have the patience of Job to persevere through our trials before God will vindicate us for our sufferings. We don't have the patience of Bartimaeus waiting for Jesus to come and heal us of our spiritual blindness.

In the word of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ a famous French existentialist philosopher, who wrote beautifully in a work called 'Hearts on Fire', "Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new".

It reminds me of the wee boy who is five and is in a hurry to be eight like his big brother!

The celebration of the Trinity, reveals to us the fullness of God's ecstatic love for the world over a period of time. May we have the faith to accept it and live it to immerse ourselves lovingly within it patiently.

I will finish with the words of the mystic, Dionysius, the Areopagite who wrote of the Trinity, "Amid the wholly unsensed and unseen they completely fill our sightless minds with treasures beyond all beauty". God Bless, Rev Jeremy Bath