

Homily 5th Sunday of Easter Year A 2026

'In the name of The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen'

Although The Blessed Trinity will always remain mystery, don't we tend to over complicate things when talk about, 'three persons in one God.' I've even heard it proclaimed, The Father is the main person in The Old Testament, the Son in The New Testament and The Holy Spirit in The Church. This model makes understanding The Holy Trinity very challenging. Let's consider how some of the most important events in Salvation History are recounted in Holy Scripture and hopefully, these will help us make more sense of The Trinity. In these passages The FATHER never speaks or acts without the SON and HOLY SPIRIT also being present.

In The Creation Stories (Genesis 1) for example it states, 'The earth was a formless void and the SPIRIT hovered over the water, and GOD SAID (The Word of God - JESUS), "Let there be light." and there was light. Evening came and morning came, the first day.' Thus, from the first moment of Creation Holy Scripture tells us FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT act together as ONE.

Fast forward to the first days of Jesus' Ministry as he is baptised by John in the River Jordan. Again, in this passage in the presence of JESUS, The FATHER proclaims, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased, and the SPIRIT descends on him in the form of a dove.' So from the first moment of Jesus' public Ministry Holy Scripture tells us FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT act together as ONE.

The birth of The Church at Pentecost sees JESUS appear to the disciples and he states, 'Just as the FATHER has sent me so I AM sending you. He then breathes on them saying, "Receive The HOLY SPIRIT.'" (Jn 20:19-25) From the very beginning of The Church FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT act together as ONE.

St John in today's Gospel Reading also emphasises that The Trinity act together as ONE. Philip says, "Lord, show us The Father, and that will be enough for us." JESUS responds, 'Whoever has seen ME has seen the FATHER.' Then through the power of the HOLY SPIRIT the disciples are sent out to forgive sins. Again, FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT acting together as ONE.

Today in The Church, FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT continue to act together as ONE. Like the Early Church presbyters and the seven newly 'ordained' deacons, in today's First Reading, we too are called to carry out The FATHER's work, in the name of JESUS empowered by the HOLY SPIRIT. That mission is to 'go out' as humble, selfless and compassionate foot washing servants of the weak, the poor, the marginalised, the sick and the most vulnerable in our communities. How stunningly beautiful is that!