

BLESSED TRINITY SUNDAY

The belief of Roman Catholicism is that the fundamental expression of the nature of God is to be found in the Holy Trinity. It is in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A prayer, phrase or notion that we are so familiar with that its complexity is forgotten.

But outside the community of faith this understanding of the creator is an obstacle. The peoples of Islam base their faith in the one true God, and understand that our beliefs are to be found in three named Gods.

Those without faith have real problems with what they cannot prove, or with what cannot be contained within a simple formula. Water is H₂O. Pressure equals force over area.

Thus this notion of mystery. This notion of placing faith in what we do not fully understand is understood as nonsensical.

Strangely. Paradoxically. Classically.

The Roman Catholic perception has more to do with lived reality than many more practical explanations of the nature of truth.

You and I were made in the image and likeness of God.

Mystery is a part of our nature in the same way as mystery is the only practical manner in which we can approach the nature of God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

What then is mystery.

It is not simply the plot of a crime thriller, or TV detective story.

Mystery in terms of faith is best understood as a journey of discovery. At no point on this journey is the possibility of encountering new wonders exhausted. Never in the ever developing process of growth do we conclude. There is always more.

As there is always more in life. Made in the image and likeness of God.

The scientist first describe the world as earth water air and fire.

Then further along the journey the alchemists tried to turn base lead into gold.

The journey continued by trial and error and experiments revealed basic chemicals. Carbon and hydrogen, and oxygen.

Still the pilgrimage of discovery did not end

Electrons and neutrons were the next stage

Then protons and Quarts

And matter began to be understood in terms of energy

As we moved into microphysics

And demonstrated our theory's by means of the hydro collider.

Are you lost?

Well so am I

So indeed is the scientific community

Who know that it is fundamentally mystery?

Who know that there is always more to see?

I was baptised in St Bernadette's Whitefield in 1959.

I was made in the image and likeness of God.

At the time of my birth I was generally aware of the sensation of hunger, comfort and my mother's voice.

Thus I set off and before long found myself an infant. Struggling to control a pencil, and trusting totally in the authority of the grown-ups.

Before long I began to emerge into independence. Recognising my identity as different even from that of my family.

Adolescence was a blessed period when I knew everything

But soon the illusion passed as I took on vocation and commitment

Going into maturity I realised how little I know

Free now to explore the infinite variety of difference available to me

Am I lost

Of course I am lost

Life being fundamentally mystery

Where there is always more to see and experience

My mother was made in the image and likeness of God

Thus for those first years she had a divine like presence to me

Her love teaching me the nature of the divine

But she was not God and I saw eventually a woman who had needs

At first all was done so that she might take pride in me

But then I became less selfish and took pride in her

Slowly the dependency changed places

And in her need I saw great dignity
I began to see the woman who was more than just my security
Since she died I am lost
Of course I am lost
Life being fundamental mystery
Where there is always more to see and experience
Thus as I reflect her influence even now grows ever more upon me

We believe in Father Son and Holy Spirit
Where little is contained by certainty
Where all is an ever expanding pilgrimage of discovery
It is faith that guides us on life's journey
Are we lost
Yes of course we are lost
But we know where we are going
And we know how to get there
In
The name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.