

THE BLESSED TRINITY
(J.F.M.H. 4.5.17)

A Sacred Mystery, means a mystery hidden in God, which can never be known unless revealed by God. The mysteries of Faith are revealed as truths, but the purpose of their revelation is life. They are received by the intelligence, but they perfect their work in the will. They enlightened the mind, but they inflame the heart. Nothing has been told us by God as a mere matter for remembrance, but it is committed to us to become a means to achieve a higher life. Even the doctrine of the Trinity comes as an aid in the struggle of our souls to their perfect development, not as a mere puzzle that we have, with difficulty, to remember in some examination by God or man. Lets, consider the meaning of this mystery as far as the halting and inadequate language of human thought allows us to do so. All the while we must be conscious that we are using human expressions and therefore merely endeavouring to state infinite things in finite categories, to pack divinity into human pigeon-holes. But there can be no harm in making use of such a method (namely, the attempt to grasp the meaning of mysteries), so long as we realize that any such attempt must be inadequate. The use of this must be fairly admitted since it is something (for which we should be eternally grateful) to have even an incomplete view of God, so long as it is the best view that at the moment is possible for us. The Church has never suggested that with the advance of time she does not obtain a clearer comprehension of the truths of Faith: indeed she has frequently proclaimed by repeated decisions and definitions the gradual unfolding of her sacred deposit.

The Blessed Trinity is, then, the name which we give to that **Mystery of the Divine Persons, who are three yet one, Father, and Son and Holy Spirit, constituting in Themselves One single God.** Of these the Father represents **Power**, for we begin the Creed by professing belief in *“God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.”* To God in the Person of the Father, therefore, we attribute omnipotence. Of the Son we learn that He is the Word of the Father that He is the perfect expression of the Father’s substance, the brightness of the Father’s glory. By this we understand that the Son is the infinite idea of the Godhead expressed in the mind of the Father in a single **Word** (even as we express the ideas of our minds in words; the Son is the perfect replica of the Godhead begotten of the mind of the Father. Therefore the Son is called the **‘Wisdom of God’**. From this knowledge of God must proceed love between God knowing, who is the Father, and God knows who is the Son; for once the infinite perfection of God is known it must be loved. Hence the love of the Saints towards Him is not free, but follows necessarily from the sight of Him. Hence also God’s knowledge of Himself must be followed by a second final act, His love. That love then that proceeds from the **Father and the Son** is the **Holy Spirit**. It must not be forgotten that we are trying to put into human language what is above language, but we can in this way obtain some glimpse of the truth. So the Catholic Church is very careful to make all developments to the wording of the “Apostles Creed” are backed by the revelations of God the Son in Scripture. In this way Human invention is not allowed to replace Divine revelation.

By our belief, then, in the Holy Trinity we acknowledge in one single God, (**Power, Wisdom, Love**) and that **these three are one**. Therefore as these inseparable, we cannot suppose that one can operate without the other two, since it is part of our belief that they constitute **a Trinity and a Unity**. Now, surely, we can see what an immense effect such a doctrine must have upon life. It is no mere question of theologians, but one that concerns every living soul. Whatever **is allowed by God’s** power must be guided by **His Wisdom** and urged on by His **Love**. All that happens to us in life, the little worries and great anxieties, the crises and the daily annoyances, the sorrows and joys, the harms that reach us through the sins of others, the great crimes of history, the huge and devastating wars, the partings and loves and whole cycle of human experience, are permitted by **power**, which itself is **wise** and **loving**. These Three Persons determine our lives, and, since we walk by Faith, we must surely grow very patient in our attitude to life. For how can we complain or criticize God’s providence, since it all comes under the triple influence of **Power, Wisdom and Love**. Under the

guidance then of this mystery we can walk through the valley of death or the more perilous borders of sin, without loss of courage or hopefulness. Nothing should make us afraid. How these are separate yet one? We do not know, nor can we reconcile in our concrete experiences the claims of each. It is always a Mystery, but a mystery in which we believe, and whose truth is checked against Christ's revelations in the Bible.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
The Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the
power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin
Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day He rose again

He ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge
The living and the dead;

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
The Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen
and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
True God from true God,
Begotten, not made.
One in Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation,
He came down from heaven:

By the power of the Holy Spirit,
He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and died and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
In fulfilment of the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the
Father and the Son
He is worshipped and glorified.
We believe in one holy
Catholic Church.
We acknowledge one
Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.