**SOLEMNITY OF HOLY TRINITY [26th May, 2013]**

READINGS: Prov. 8:22-31/ Romans 5:1-5/ John 16:12-15

THEME: ONE GOD, THREE PERSONS

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BBC has an advert which runs like this: ‘**The WORLD is a big place and your RADIO is small, only BBC can put the world in your radio**.’Similarly, ‘**GOD is big and our human MIND is small, only FAITH (like BBC) can put GOD in our MIND**!’

The mystery of God far surpasses the capacity of the human mind such that it had to be revealed gradually to us: ‘God has spoken in the past to our ancestors through the prophets in many different ways, **although never completely**, but in our times **he has spoken definitively to us through his Son**’ (Heb. 1:1-2). It is like receiving a long SMS text message, with only part of it displaying initially; and later on getting the full message. Thus, in Jesus Christ we have the full message that God, though One, is Three Persons: Father and Son and Holy Spirit.

If we believe in what scripture says that in the eyes of God a **1,000 years** [i.e. 365,250 days] **equal a day**, then why should we not believe that **Three** Divine Persons **equal One** God? One could say that the Divine Mathematics is **not** based on **addition**, **1 + 1 +1** (for we cannot add something else to ‘increase’ God, as he is perfect and never changes); rather the Divine Mathematics is based on **multiplication**: **1 X 1 X 1 = 1**.

We may also illustrate the mystery of the Trinity with the follow:

* AN EGG: As the shell, the white substance and the yoke make up an egg, so the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are together one God.
* A SOFA: As three separate seats make up a sofa, so the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are together one God.
* HUMAN BEING: As a redeemed person is made up of the body, soul and spirit, so the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are together one God.

But the above and all other illustrations have their limitations, because God is far greater than any created thing or human imagination or intellect:

* In the case of an egg, while the shell alone or the white substance alone or the yoke alone is not a full egg, in the case of the Trinity, the Father alone is God, the Son alone is God and the Holy Spirit alone is God.
* In the case of the sofa, while the individual seat cannot be called a sofa, in the case of the Trinity, the Father alone is God, the Son alone is God and the Holy Spirit alone is God.
* In the case of the human person, while the body alone or the soul alone or the spirit alone cannot be called a human being, in the case of the Trinity, the Father alone is God, the Son alone is God and the Holy Spirit alone is God.

Indeed, God is God; God is Supreme! That is why we have to **approach him with humility and deep reverence,** and not with the self-conceited disposition which wrongly concludes that God does not exist simply because we cannot see him nor scientifically prove his existence.

**The Nature of the Mystery of the Trinity**:

The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are equal in divinity, power, majesty, knowledge, etc. Hence, regarding their divinity for instance, we professed every Sunday:

* ‘God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,’regarding the equality of divinity between the Father and the Son; and
* ‘I believe in the Holy Spirit, the **Lord**, the giver of life... who with the Father and the Son is **adored and glorified,**’regarding the equality of divinity among the Three Persons.

The only distinction is in the area of their Persons: the Father as a Person is distinct from the Son and the Holy Spirit; in short, Three Persons are mutually distinct from each other; yet, as said already, all Three Persons are One God.

**Some Practical Lessons**:

* Let us consciously make the sign of the cross, which is an expression of our faith in the Holy Trinity; and in public, let us do so confidently. Those of us who feel shy to make the sign of the cross in public should be encouraged by those footballers, who in the full view of thousands of spectators in the stadium and millions of TV viewers across the globe, make the sign of the cross.
* Since God is One and yet Three Persons, a mystery beyond our comprehension, we should be conscious of and acknowledge his awesomeness. Even the prophet Isaiah, who had no knowledge of the mystery of the Trinity, was awe-struck when, in a vision, he experienced the **thrice-holy** God. When he experienced the‘**holy, holy, holy! The Lord Almighty**’the prophet confessed his unworthiness (Isaiah 6:1-6). Yes, indeed, with the full revelation we have received in Jesus Christ, we can say: **Holy to the Father, Holy to the Son, and Holy to the Spirit!**
* Thirdly, we should be ever grateful to God for his work of creation (by the Father), of redemption (by the Son), and of sanctification (by the Holy Spirit).
* Fourthly, learning from the Holy Trinity, we should endeavour to live and work in **love and unity** in:
	+ Our **Family,** which has a trinitarian feature (Father + Mother + Child);
	+ Our **Church,** which also has a trinitarian character (Clergy + Religious + Laity).

**Conclusion:**

I wish to conclude with a prayer:

* May God the Father, of Creation and Providence, provide for all our needs, amen!
* May Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, surround us with the precious blood of eternal redemption, amen!
* May the Holy Spirit sanctify us and sustain us unto everlasting life, amen.