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7 June 2020
First Sunday in Ordinary Time

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THE HOLY TRINITY AND THE SIN OF RACISM



A FEW YEARS AGO I was listening to the writer Malorie Blackman on Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. She recounted that when she was a child her family moved to Beckenham, but that when they were being shown round a house by an estate agent a neighbour rang the police, thinking the house was being burgled. This was because they were a black family. I don't know off hand how long ago this was but it does show the reality of racism in areas like Beckenham in the past, and what a shameful history this is.

Today is Trinity Sunday, when we celebrate the belief which we hold that God has revealed to us about his own nature – that he is one God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Theologians call this type of belief a 'mystery': this doesn't mean what we normally understand by the word, but simply claims that we can't fully grasp the belief on the strength of human reason. But one thing we can say is that this belief isn't obscure or remote: it directly concerns how we live in the world. In many ways the doctrine of the Trinity is the basis for all our moral teachings in the Catholic Church. For we hold that God has created humanity in his image, with a dignity and sacredness which is non-negotiable. The

human person with this dignity is intended by the Creator to reflect the God in whose image we have been created. Today teaches us that the three persons within the Godhead - Father, Son and Holy Spirit – are united in a relationship of mutual love, self-giving and perfect equality. In the early Church it took many years for Christians to come to believe this fully and I think many Christians even today only pay lip-service to it, but it is as relevant today as it was in the fourth century when the Creed we say at Mass was being finalised. Mutual love, self-giving and perfect equality, the attributes of God, should characterise how we live and how we order our world. So when men and women live in such a way which does not reflect love, self-giving and equality then we deny something essential about how we're made; we're denying our createdness, we're denying God.

This really does 'raise the stakes' when we look at what the Catholic Church teaches about social justice and how we should live in the world: interestingly both Benedict XVI and Francis in their letters about social teaching and creation explicitly point to the Trinity as the model for how we should live. If we sin against social justice by demeaning or discriminating against our neighbour, we're not simply being uncharitable. We are denying God's creative act; in reality we're blaspheming against the Holy Trinity.

This has to give us the context for looking at police brutality in the United States encapsulated in the terrible killing of George Floyd in Minnesota last week and the protests in response around the country. I have posted on the parish Facebook page some reactions from Catholic bishops and journals in the US. The racism behind what has happened, and the appalling reactions of some people, is profoundly sinful within society, and it's a problem that has not been seriously addressed. It would also be a mistake to assume that racially motivated police brutality has not been a problem in this country. One of the challenges in the Covid-19 crisis is the need not to look simply at our own problems or difficulties at this time to get our priorities right. For example, it's right, as the Cardinal and our archbishop have said publicly, that our churches should be open for prayer in the near future where we can do so safely: but I wonder whether some of those who have been agitating for this to happen earlier were as exercised about the sufferings of people as a result of Covid-19, or the injustices in society which these sufferings have exposed; I also wonder whether they care as much about racism. We rightly yearn for our places of worship to be open – but we mustn't seek to go back into our buildings to escape from the world. We have a challenging message to proclaim and a call to conversion to the world; and our challenge to convert, in relation to the blot on the human family of racism, is based on what we believe about God.

That message, as we see this Trinity Sunday, is about love at the heart of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; a message we celebrate and share this weekend. As we do so we pray for George Floyd's soul and the souls of others who have died because of police brutality, and we pray for the Church and people of the United States.

MASSES THIS WEEK - via Webcam ONLY

Intentions that have had to be moved due to Mass cancellation will be offered on the closest possible date.

Sunday 7 June	The Most Holy Trinity
9.30 am	Int of Fr Mark Binang Eshokai family
5.30 pm	Richard Graves RIP Jeremy Smith RIP
Monday 8 June	Feria
9.00 am	Jeanne & Pierre Champetier and Nancy & Stephen Dennis RIP
9.40 am	Rosary followed by Exposition - 7pm
6.30 pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
7.30 pm	<i>Evening Reflection</i>
Tuesday 9 June	St Columba
9.00 am	Shona Mukoro - in thanksgiving Rosemary McWilliams RIP
9.40 am	Rosary followed by Exposition -7pm
6.30 pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
7.30 pm	<i>Evening Reflection</i>
Wednesday 10 June	Feria
9.00 am	Peter Xavier DeSouza RIP The Catenians
9.40 am	Rosary followed by Exposition -7pm
6.30 pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
7.30 pm	<i>Evening Reflection</i>
Thursday 11 June	St Barnabas
9.00 am	Joan Holland Dennis family & their lost babies
9.40 am	Rosary followed by Exposition -7pm
6.30 pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
7.30 pm	<i>Evening Reflection</i>
Friday 12 June	Feria
9.00 am	Peter Anthony Gorman RIP Deceased benefactors & promoters of The Claver Sisters
9.40 am	Rosary followed by Exposition -7pm
6.30 pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
7.30 pm	<i>Evening Reflection</i>
Saturday 13 June	St Anthony of Padua
9.00 am	Margaret Wymer RIP (1st ann)
6.00 pm	Crescenzo & Delisa Panetta RIP For the people
Sunday 14 June	Corpus Christi
	The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ
9.30 am	Int of Mary Bradford Mary & Danny Loftus RIP
5.30 pm	Mr & Mrs René Panglose RIP and Mr & Mrs Alex Brelu Brelu RIP Monica Grima RIP

Readings for Corpus Christi

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16	Psalms 147
1 Corinthians 10:16-17	John 6:51-58

COLLECTION FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN LONDON

The food collection scheduled for this weekend will not take place for obvious reasons.

This community relies entirely on donations to feed the many men it shelters so please consider making a financial donation instead via their website:

<https://www.londoncatholicworker.org/>

Some of us, particularly in recent weeks, have been able to order food to be delivered to our homes. Some of you may wish through whatever system you use to arrange for a delivery of food to the community. If so, the address is 49 Mattison Road, London N4 1BG. Fresh vegetables would be particularly welcome.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

We are now planning our next RCIA Course for those who are interested in the Catholic faith or who would like to be received into the Catholic Church. As yet we are not able to give dates or location until restrictions on Churches and gatherings are lifted. But if in the meantime you would like more information and advice about the course please email us on

beckenhamrcia@rcaos.org.uk

Cathy & Mary

**CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Mass for the Sick and their Families,
NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care**

This Thursday (11 June) Bishop Patrick McKinney will celebrate Mass from Nottingham Cathedral at 7 pm

<https://www.churchservices.tv/nottinghamcathedral>

COLLECTION

*The online collection last week came to £2129.08
Thank you*

If you would like to make your weekly offerings electronically you can do so either through ChurchSuite - please click here <http://saintedmunds.net/index.php/donations/> or you could set up a standing order:
Bank details - Sort Code: 60-02-12 Acc no: 14282887

We pray for those who have died recently: Zoran Jovic, Ellie Jones, Maureen Young, Adrian Lasrado, Lucia Profita, Thomas Stewart, Rosemary McWilliams, Katherine O'Sullivan, Albert Abel, Edward Burton, Fr Edmund Hartley, Fr Francis Hartley, Collette Hanley, Justine Nkwelang Tchamba, Fr Chris O'Donnell, Anne Porter, Thressiama Winson, Andrew Doherty and Bishop Vincent Malone.

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Michael Howard, Grace Dunn, George Winch, Juan Carlos, Edward George Miller, Ellen Miller, Aloysius Kubczak, Mary Brady, Colette Dungey, Francis Weal, Anne Shaw, Henry Cottelier, Mary Bell, Dee Beechiner -Collins, Cathy DeLacey, Jeremy Smith, Robert McGeesh, Matthew Edwards, Anne McCabe, Peter Gorman, Eileen Goodman, Mireille Tilbrook, Rita Sullivan, Francis O'Grady, Margaret Wymer, Elizabeth Mary Aylott, John Harris, Anna Caraccio and Audrey Brown.

We pray for the sick: Jenny Adams, Angela, Fr Michael Bateman, Frank & Aloysius Braganza, Rob Burns, Emma-Jane, Carmel Cardiff, Chant, Christine, John Crouch, Sorcha Davis, Niamh Dawson, Giacomo Dillon, Bridget D'Souza, Joshua Dunford, Nicholas Dunford, Bernie Doran, Alex Dufort, Cecil Dutton, Maghbole Ebrahimi, Antonio Ferrara, Felicity, Rae Fleming, Rosleen Flemming, Mary Flood, Flora, Erika Geddes, Tony Hallett, Hans Halpin, Margaret Halpin, Michael Harper, Eileen Hayes, Kathleen Hayes, Mary Hisee, Rosemary Horsley, Lesley Hill, Glen Jack, Jerry Jacob, John, Catherine Kelly, Antony, Celia & Richard Kirin, Pierre Lane, Barry Marchant, Rose McDonnell, Mary McGrath, Paul McIndoe, Eddie Mitchell, Salvador Moreno, Barbara Moyce, Gretta O'Reilly, Eva Perjesi, John Quaife, Brian Russell, Brigitte Savreux-O'Driscoll, Margaret Pietrzyk, Mary Shipsey, Coleen Shroeder, Vincent Silveira, Siobhan, John Stokoe, Angela Stolle, Deborah Walcott-Grappie, Joan, Alfred, Susan & Wendy Waller, Jimmy Walters, Patricia Weal, Sue Wingfield and Charlie Wynn.