

There are many things happening in our world today that disturb and upset us; from the personal tragedies of illness and death, to the global tragedies of war and terrorism, disaster and the threat to our planet from our own misuse of its resources. Or we could think of the growing problems in our society, unrest and division, poverty and deprivation, selfishness and materialism, disrespect for life, and growing secularisation resulting in the gradual emptying of our churches. These things depress us, get us down, and cause us to despair for the future. They are the result of evil in the world.

Now try to imagine the opposite to all of that. Try to imagine the biggest amount of love that you can. Try to imagine the most beautiful relationship that you can. That love and beautiful relationship exists and is a reality. It is

the love and relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is what we celebrate today on Trinity Sunday. The most wonderful thing we can possibly imagine, then multiply it by infinity. Of course its an impossible sum, but that is as near as we are going to get to defining God. He cannot be fathomed, calculated or expressed in words.

We can however say that God in his very being is opposed to all that is evil. It can have no place in his plan of love for us. God's response to evil is not to hate but to love – God so loved the world that he gave his only Son – to deal with evil, to confront and overcome it through the cross. And his plan for us, his desire for us, is that we reflect his love to the world. That is what we are put here for,

created out of love, created in his image, to reflect his love to the world.

Baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we are caught up in that relationship of love that is the most Holy Trinity.

Today on Holy Trinity Sunday, we are reminded that we are Holy Trinity Parish – what better patron could we have for our parish; and what better patron saints could we have? They are so appropriate in reminding us what we are here for. The Holy Trinity, as I've said, reminds us that we are to reflect God's love to those around us – Holy Redeemer – the great crucifix in that beautiful church shows us the extent of that love – the Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph show us how that love is lived out in our family lives. St Paul, the great apostle and missionary

inspires us in our task of communicating that love to our world. All our patron saints remind us of what our task as a parish is, why we are here as the Church in this part of Plymouth. To meet people with the love of God. To oppose evil wherever we see it, but not with the further evils of hatred, bigotry and criticism and condemnation. No we must oppose evil only with love, forgiveness, patience, kindness, understanding – these things are of God, they are his gifts, they are the only response worthy of his Church. And they will overcome evil, in the end. Because the cross shows, God's love has already won. We just have to stay in tune with God's purposes, so that evil has no hold over us, and no place in our lives. Our problem is we are weak, and sometimes we cannot help ourselves when it comes to sin. So we need to turn to God. We just need to keep on coming back to God and asking his forgiveness – if

we do that, then he can work in us, and gradually transform us into the people he wants us to be.

And so when sin and evil get us down and make us despair, let's remember that in the Holy Trinity we have an endlessly loving, kind and compassionate God who is so much greater than anything we can imagine – that all the evil in the world has no power over him.

So try to imagine the biggest amount of love that you can. Try to imagine the most beautiful relationship that you can. That is the love and beautiful relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In baptism you are drawn into that love and beautiful relationship in the divine heart of almighty God. So we are members of a Church and parish that has at the heart of its life and

mission the vocation to reflect the love and relationship at the heart of the Trinity.

Our Mass today is full of doxologies. They are best sung because music expresses more than words alone can. The Gloria, and the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, and a few more examples in the hymns chosen for today. A doxology is simply a giving of praise, glory and honour to the Trinity. Our lives can be doxologies. We can give praise to the Trinity not just in the Mass, but each and every day of our lives – we can become living and walking doxologies. So as you are going about your daily tasks this week, I invite to have this doxology frequently on your lips or in your minds “Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.