

Dear Beloved,

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday, the day on which we celebrate one god in three persons. The Anglican church has been celebrating it since the middle ages. If you think about it too hard it becomes very difficult, in fact it is traditionally the hardest sermon to preach in the whole year. (often palmed off to the curate!)

At the very end of this email I have copied some quotes from saints and theologians over the centuries plus the beginning of some notes about the trinity. Read them if you are interested and if you want to know more I just searched on 'thoughts on the trinity'.



Blessings

Wendy

Snowy Monaro Arts Council Inc. presents Pianist, Alexander Yau Today 2:30pm  
Adult \$30 Concession \$25 SMAC Member \$20 Under 18 Free Includes Afternoon Tea

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June 11 2pm Sam and Ruth's Piano Concert  
Tickets \$30 from Fabric Salon or door  
Help with afternoon tea appreciated see Nella

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Canberra Brass 'Classic Brass' Sunday 25th June 2.30 pm  
Adult \$30, Concession \$25

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Saturday 17th June working Bee for the Rectory Garden  
at Rectory 1.30 or anytime after that.

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Sunday 18th June a very short meeting after the service to accept the accounts  
for 2022 and present 2023 budget

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Sunday 9th July we will have morning tea to farewell Ruth and David Fletcher as they are moving to Canberra

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Community Day Saturday 23rd September

Anyone who is willing to help come to rectory Tuesdays 2.00 - 3.30

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Morning Tea after the Service every 2nd and 4th Sunday  
please volunteer for the roster.

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Midweek Services every Wednesday at 9.30 all Welcome

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Please volunteer for the roster, well in advance.

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Prayer and Praise

Wendy

Edith and Colin Mayhew

--

Glenn Fletcher

Alan Hood

our wardens and Parish Councillors

--

Bernie and Gayle

Scott's wife Jennie.

Beattie Russell and Jenni Roberts in Yallambie.

--

Liz Pirie

Leanne Lowery

Mary Mitchell

--

Peter & Julie Harris from Bredbo

all congregations in Bombala

--

The Catholic priest Father Mark Croker as he ministers from Bombala  
through to the mountains

--

for each other that we may be salt and light in this community

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People everywhere who are living through war or disasters of every kind.

I did a search on 'thoughts about the Trinity' on the internet and found these (and plenty of other) resources. If you want to read more please do your own search but I thought some of you might be interested to read these:

### QUOTES OF SAINTS

**St. Augustine:** "For to have the fruition of God the Trinity, after whose image we are made, is indeed the fullness of our joy, than which there is no greater."

**St. Teresa of Avila:** "The three Persons are distinct from one another; a sublime knowledge is infused into the soul, imbuing it with a certainty of the truth that the Three are of one substance, power, and knowledge and are one God."

**St. Seraphim of Sarov:** "In spite of our sinfulness, in spite of the darkness surrounding our souls, the Grace of the Holy Spirit, conferred by baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, still shines in our hearts with the inextinguishable light of Christ ... and when the sinner turns to the way of repentance the light smooths away every trace of the sins committed, clothing the former sinner in the garments of incorruption, spun of the Grace of the Holy Spirit. It is this acquisition of the Holy Spirit about which I have been speaking."

**St. Patrick (from 'St. Patrick's Breastplate' prayer):** "Today I put on a terrible strength invoking the Trinity, confessing the Three with faith in the One as I face my Maker."

**St. Catherine of Siena:** "O Trinity, eternal Trinity! Fire, abyss of love ... Was it necessary that you should give even the Holy Trinity as food for souls? You gave us not only your Word through the Redemption and in the Eucharist, but you also gave yourself in the fullness of love for your creature."

**St. Thomas Aquinas:** "The Father loves not only the Son, but also Himself and us, by the Holy Ghost."

**St. Ambrose:** "Rise, you who were lying fast asleep.... Rise and hurry to the Church: here is the Father, here is the Son, here is the Holy Spirit."

**St. Pope John Paul II:** "A great mystery, a mystery of love, an ineffable mystery, before which words must give way to the silence of wonder and worship. A divine mystery that challenges and involves us, because a share in the Trinitarian life was given to us through grace, through the redemptive Incarnation of the Word and the gift of the Holy Spirit."

**St. Faustina:** "When One of the Three Persons communicates with a soul, by the power of that one will, it finds itself united with the Three Persons and is inundated in the happiness flowing from the Most Holy Trinity, the same happiness that nourishes the saints. This same happiness that streams from the Most Holy Trinity makes all creation happy; from it springs that life which vivifies and bestows all life which takes its beginning from Him."

**St. Francis de Sales (from a consecration prayer to the Trinity):** "I vow and consecrate to God all that is in me: My memory and my actions to God the Father; My understanding and my words to God the Son; My will and my thoughts to God the Holy Spirit."

The doctrine of the Trinity means that there is one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons — the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Stated differently, God is one in essence and three in person. These definitions express three crucial truths: (1) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, (2) each Person is fully God, (3) there is only one God.

### **The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons**

The Bible speaks of the Father as God (Phil. 1:2), Jesus as God (Titus 2:13), and the Holy Spirit as God (Acts 5:3-4). Are these just three different ways of looking at God, or simply ways of referring to three different roles that God plays?

The answer must be no, because the Bible also indicates that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons. For example, since the Father sent the Son into the world (John 3:16), He cannot be the same person as the Son. Likewise, after the Son returned to the Father (John 16:10), the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit into the world (John 14:26; Acts 2:33). Therefore, the Holy Spirit must be distinct from the Father and the Son.

In the baptism of Jesus, we see the Father speaking from heaven and the Spirit descending from heaven in the form of a dove as Jesus comes out of the water (Mark 1:10-11). In John 1:1 it is affirmed that Jesus is God and, at the same time, that He was “with God”- thereby indicating that Jesus is a distinct Person from God the Father (cf. also 1:18). And in John 16:13-15 we see that although there is a close unity between them all, the Holy Spirit is also distinct from the Father and the Son.

The fact that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons means, in other words, that the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father. Jesus is God, but He is not the Father or the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, but He is not the Son or the Father. They are different Persons, not three different ways of looking at God.

The personhood of each member of the Trinity means that each Person has a distinct center of consciousness. Thus, they relate to each other personally — the Father regards Himself as “I,” while He regards the Son and Holy Spirit as “You.” Likewise the Son regards Himself as “I,” but the Father and the Holy Spirit as “You.”

Often it is objected that “If Jesus is God, then he must have prayed to himself while he was on earth.” But the answer to this objection lies in simply applying what we have already seen. While Jesus and the Father are both God, they are different Persons. Thus, Jesus prayed to God the Father without praying to Himself. In fact, it is precisely the continuing dialogue between the Father and the Son (Matthew 3:17; 17:5; John 5:19; 11:41-42; 17:1ff) which furnishes the best evidence that they are distinct Persons with distinct centers of consciousness.

Sometimes the Personhood of the Father and Son is appreciated, but the Personhood of the Holy Spirit is neglected. Sometimes the Spirit is treated more like a “force” than a Person. But the Holy Spirit is not an it, but a He (see John 14:26; 16:7-15; Acts 8:16). The fact that the Holy Spirit is a Person, not an impersonal force (like gravity), is also shown by the fact that He speaks (Hebrews 3:7), reasons (Acts 15:28), thinks and understands (1 Corinthians 2:10-11), wills (1 Corinthians 12:11), feels (Ephesians 4:30), and gives personal fellowship (2 Corinthians 13:14).

These are all qualities of personhood. In addition to these texts, the others we mentioned above make clear that the Personhood of the Holy Spirit is distinct from the Personhood of the Son and the Father. They are three real persons, not three roles God plays.

Another serious error people have made is to think that the Father became the Son, who then became the Holy Spirit. Contrary to this, the passages we have seen imply that God always was and always will be three Persons. There was never a time when one of the Persons of the Godhead did not exist. They are all eternal.

While the three members of the Trinity are distinct, this does not mean that any is inferior to the other. Instead, they are all identical in attributes. They are equal in power, love, mercy, justice, holiness, knowledge, and all other qualities.

HYMN TIS **168** for the fruits of all creation

**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Sentence of Scripture**

Proclaim the Name: 'The Lord, the Lord, a God who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.' Exodus 34.6

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Two Great Commandments**

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

**Lord, have mercy on us: and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, for you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Exodus 34.1-8**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Moses, 'Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. <sup>2</sup> Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. <sup>3</sup> No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain.'

<sup>4</sup> So Moses chiselled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the Lord had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. <sup>5</sup> Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.' <sup>8</sup> Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshipped.

**Song of 3YM 29-34**

Blessed are you, the God of our forebears: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed is your holy and glorious name: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you, glorious in your holy temple: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you who behold the depths: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you in the heights of heaven: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

**2 Corinthians 13.11–14**

<sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. <sup>13</sup> All God's people here send their greetings. <sup>14</sup> May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## Matthew 28.16–20

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

### Sermon

#### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, 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, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic 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.

#### THE PRAYERS

**Let us pray for all people, and for the Church throughout the world.**

Eternal God, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

#### PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

##### Exhortation

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we who would come to the holy communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Christ must consider how St Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves before presuming to eat of that bread and drink of that cup.

For the benefit is great, if with a penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy sacrament. We then spiritually eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood; we dwell in Christ and he in us; we are one with Christ and Christ with us. Yet also the danger is great if we receive the bread and cup unworthily. Judge yourselves therefore, that you be not judged of the Lord.

Repent truly of your sins, having a steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour. Amend your lives and love your neighbour. Above all, give hearty thanks to God for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, truly God and truly human, who humbled himself to death on the cross for us sinners, that he might make us children of God, and raise us to eternal life.

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to strengthen and comfort you. But first, let us make a humble confession of our sins to almighty God.

## Invitation to Confession

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Let us therefore bring our sins before the one true God, in penitence and faith.

## Confession

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us.**

**We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our misdoings.**

**Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Absolution.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ.

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I Tim 1:15

**Hymn TIS 132 holy holy holy Lord God almighty**

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Through him, you have revealed to us your glory in the community of your love, three persons, one God, ever to be worshipped and adored.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory to you, O Lord most high.**

**We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.**

**But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

All glory to you, our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death on the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' Likewise, after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' **Amen**

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving. The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

#### **AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and to grant that, by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and your whole Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice, humbly beseeching you that all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with your grace and heavenly benediction.

And although we are unworthy, through our many sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this, our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Father, world without end.

#### **Hymn TIS 517 Hallelujah sing to Jesus**

#### **Blessing**

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in all truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.





You may have noticed that throughout the Easter Season we have gradually been not only going through the events that happened that first Easter but also the theological implications of those events for us and the church. Today is Trinity Sunday, in many ways the culmination of all that theology. The fathers of the church, in setting up the church year did not do this arbitrarily but really wanted us to understand where each event and its implications came in the great story.

Trinity Sunday is the climax of this building of theology around Easter: the last Supper, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension lead us to each person of the Godhead being in their place and doing their part.



In 2000 years no one has come up with a simple way to describe the trinity so I'm not going to manage it either but I included some quotes and thoughts in the weekly email so if you want to go deeper that might give you a place to start but basically I'm going to preach on the set readings with some thoughts on the trinity as appropriate.

Our gospel reading begins, as do many significant events in Matthew's gospel, on a mountain. (temptations, sermon on a mount, the transfiguration, final discourse on the mount of Olives), Are these places closer to heaven? Certainly they are places where the things of earth are often left behind, where you can get some perspective and space around you. Anglicans usually build their churches on high places if they can. Jesus invites his disciples onto a mountain so that they can be commissioned.



When they saw Jesus they worshipped him but some doubted. Did they doubt whether it was really Jesus. Or did they hesitate as good Jews, who believed in the one true God, whether they should worship Jesus? We don't know but worth noting that on Trinity Sunday that the disciples had not devised a theology of the trinity as yet.

What is clear is that the majority of them did worship Jesus and that was the right reaction. People have worshipped Jesus on other occasions throughout his life on earth without necessarily believing that he was divine but on this occasion it is clear that Jesus is worshipped as the 'Emmanuel', 'God with us', as promised at his birth. And as he declares to them that he will be 'with you always' the only suitable reaction is worship. This is the one true God who is now astoundingly, revealed in and as Jesus himself. That's a tiny bit of trinity theology right there: both Jesus and the Father who the Jews have known as Yahweh are one. Both are God but each is separate. The Father sent the son, the Father remained the Father and the Son came to earth to save us.



Having died for us and risen Jesus has now been given 'all authority in heaven and earth'. When Satan tempted Jesus he offered him all authority, in reality he was offering fake authority but Jesus would not take any authority without paying the price. Jesus' authority as the risen one by contrast is the authority of the one who has defeated death and sin, his is the authority under which life, God's new life, can begin. He had been given this authority by God the Father, the holder of all true authority.

Jesus' authority to rule does not mean that everything is now just as he intends it to be, what it means is that he is working to take it from where it was, under the rule of death, corruption, and wickedness and bring it under the rule of his life-giving love. How is he going to accomplish this? Through us, his followers.



With all that authority and power Jesus, God, chooses to limit his power, to only express his authority and power through his followers. The kingdom of God only expands as much as Jesus's agents, the people he has commissioned, take it forward. Those who believe in Jesus, those witnesses of his resurrection, then those who believed because of their testimony, are given the authority which he has. Every Sunday and at other times we pray the Lord's prayer and pray that God's kingdom will 'come on earth as it is in heaven'. If we pray that pray, we shouldn't be surprised if we are called upon to help bring about God's answer to it.

There are three parts to this commission: The first is to 'make disciples': just as Jesus called his disciples and trained them to imitate his life and understand the gospel so his followers ever since have had the responsibility of calling people to follow him and training them how to live and share the gospel. Notice that this is not just encouraging them to 'give their heart to Jesus' or whatever phrase you might have heard, but actually discipling them in how to live and grow in the Lord.



The second part of the commission is to 'baptize' them. Part of the meaning of baptism is to commit disciples through plunging into water, to dying with Jesus and coming to share his new life. For most of us we were baptised as babies but in our lives we need to take that meaning to ourselves as adults and truly live it.

And the third part of the commission is to 'teach' them to obey everything I have commanded you. There is no point in leaving a 'babe in Christ' to stumble along by themselves, they need to be mentored and loved through all their trials and faltering so that they can mature into true disciples, people who worship the one true God and make disciples.



When we baptise anyone we do so following Jesus' instructions: baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Throughout his life Jesus knew himself to be, in a unique way, the Son of God that he (and Israel as a whole) knew as Father. This went with his being specially equipped with the 'Holy Spirit' at his baptism, and the Holy Spirit gave him the power to do all the things he did and the status of being God's anointed.

The trinity always was and always will be, We think of the Father as the creator but the son, the word, was also there and the spirit hovered over the waters, the choas. In the same way each person works with and supports the others of the trintiy in their own unique ministries and roles. God created time for us to live in but he lives outside of time which is how he can know our future and work to bring all things to his will.



Sometimes the Personhood of the Father and Son is appreciated, but the Personhood of the Holy Spirit is neglected. Sometimes the Spirit is treated more like a "force" than a Person. But the Holy Spirit is not an 'it', but a person (see John 14:26; 16:7-15; Acts 8:16).

The fact that the Holy Spirit is a Person, not an impersonal force (like gravity), is also shown by the fact that she speaks (Hebrews 3:7), reasons (Acts 15:28), thinks and understands (1 Corinthians 2:10-11), wills (1 Corinthians 12:11), feels (Ephesians 4:30), and gives personal fellowship (2 Corinthians 13:14). These are all qualities of personhood. The trinity is three persons, not three roles God plays.



Paul in farewelling the Corinthians at the end of his letter touches on his experience of the trinity and speaks of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. You can tell that he speaks from his experience of knowing each member of the trinity in his life. Jesus always gives grace; the Father is love. And the Holy Spirit walks with us day by day counselling, leading and consoling us.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are different Persons, not three different ways of looking at God. The personhood of each member of the Trinity means that each Person has a distinct centre of consciousness. Each of them speaks, reasons, thinks, understands, wills, feels, and has personal relationships with each other and with individual people. But because they are God, they totally understand each other, are able to totally agree, and work with each other in perfect co-ordination and harmony.

We don't need to understand all the theology we just need to understand that God loves us in and through all three persons of the trinity.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen