



*The Most Holy Trinity Civ  
Excerpts from Proverbs 8, Romans 5 & John 16*

## Image of God

A celebration of the Trinity is really a celebration of our humanity. And we find our humanity in being disciples of Jesus.  
Fr David King – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022

*Please take some time with the First Reading & Psalm before looking at this (Proverbs 8.22-31 & Psalm 8)*

### 1. Charles

You may not have heard about this, but on 15<sup>th</sup> May (just a few weeks ago), in Rome, Pope Francis canonised seven men and women, so there's some very happy news for you, we have seven new saints for the church. And one of the people he canonised was a guy called Charles de Foucauld and I'd like to tell you a little bit about this guy's story, as it's an unassuming yet also remarkable story and I think, strangely, it can absolutely point us in the right direction when thinking about the Trinity today.

- Charles de Foucauld was born in France in the year 1858 (incidentally that's the year that Our Lady appeared to Bernadette in Lourdes). He was born into a very wealthy family and entered into the military academy and became a soldier. And at this time in his life, he wasn't particularly interested in Jesus, he was more interested in girls, and he lived quite a hedonistic life full of worldly pleasures. But soon he got fed up with all of that, and left the army wanting to explore a bit of the world. He travelled to Morocco and there he encountered a whole new world.
- And it was actually whilst he was there that his eyes were first really opened to Jesus. He encountered the devout Muslims of Northern Africa and their devotion and faithfulness really touched him, and he also experienced much suffering there (he was almost killed several times) and the combination of all of these things led to a complete change of heart.
- He came back to France intent on being a follower of Jesus in the Catholic Church. In his diary he wrote *"As soon as I believed in God, I understood that I could not do otherwise than to live for him alone."* A short while after this, he became a monk, entering into a Trappist Monastery. This was now when he was 32 years old. He was there for a while, but after some time he really felt God calling him to a life of radical simplicity and solitude back in the desert of North Africa.
- So in 1901 he moved to the Sahara Desert in Algeria. And he lived there for 13 years amongst the Tuareg (Twar-reg) people. He mostly led a simple life of solitude, spending hours in prayer before the tabernacle every day, but he also formed wonderful relationships with the local people, learning their language and serving them as best he could, very gently living as the presence of Jesus among them. It was there he took the name 'Brother Charles' and was loved by many.
- Very sadly, he was killed in 1916 when he was just 58 years old. Nobody quite knows what happened, he could have just been caught up in some regional unrest, but it's perhaps more likely he was killed for his faith. So there you have it, from soldier to explorer, to monk, missionary and martyr. A truly humble but beautiful life. Charles met with Jesus and chose to follow him, and in doing so became like him, and absolutely found the person he was so clearly meant to become. Pope Francis has spoken many times of his great love and respect for Charles.

## 2. Adam

- It's so interesting to me that on this Trinity Sunday, we get, in the first reading and in the psalm, essentially what is an ode to being human. Strange isn't it that when we're supposed to be celebrating God as Trinity, we get readings about the glory of being a human being!
- The first reading talks of the Spirit at creation "delighting to be with the sons of men" and the Psalm speaks of man as being "little less than a god" and having been "crowned with glory and honour" with all things having been put under his feet.
- What is going on here? Well, it kinda makes sense. You see we human beings are made in the image and likeness of God, that is so utterly fundamental to who we are. So a celebration of the Trinity is also, by virtue of logic, a celebration of Humanity.
- And I think it's so important to remember that. Human beings are not the scourge of the planet as some would have you believe. They are not a parasitic species intent on destroying creation. It makes me so sad when people talk about human beings like that. We are God's finest work of art! Made in his own image and likeness! It's just that when we forget that, when we forget who we are and forget our calling, well it's then that things often fall to pieces and we get sucked into all kinds of other projects like war and exploitation and greed.
- That's why it's so important regularly to come back to our purpose and calling. Our original calling is to be living statues of God – that's what it means to be made in his image and likeness – living sculptures reflecting the glory of God and stewarding over creation. Ruling here (not in a tyrannical sense but ruling in love) on his behalf, reflecting God to the world and the world back to God. It's a beautiful, breath-taking calling, and it is quite simply our life's task to step into this calling.

## 3. Jesus

- But that begs the question, well how *do* we step into this calling? How do we fulfil this vocation? And now we see where Jesus fits in! Jesus is the fully human one. He's the one who embraces and totally fulfils that call. He was without sin don't forget, that is, he didn't have anything to distract him. He was on the right track, gloriously alive to the fullest possible degree. So we see our true humanity, what we are meant to be, in all it's glory, *in him*.
- So logically, we find our humanity in following him, in trying to live like him. He's given us a perfect example of what being a human being looks like. To live like him is to live as a true human being. He will teach us how to be human, and send the Holy Spirit to continue to lead us into the truth.
- I hope that all makes sense! A celebration of the Trinity *is* a celebration of our humanity, as we are made in God's image and likeness. And we find our humanity in being disciples of Jesus, Jesus came to lead us into our true human calling, to show us the way, to give us an example of what that looks like.
- And to just make the circle complete, we see a beautiful example of all this in action in the life of Charles de Foucauld. Charles met with Jesus and realised that the only way he would truly find himself and find his humanity, was by following him wholeheartedly. He did this, and was led by Jesus into a beautiful truly human life. Surely we can learn something from these scriptures and from him.

*Jesus, in you I find my true humanity, help me to follow you, with all my heart.*