

St Marc Grenoble  
Trinity Sunday, 30th May 2021 (+ Baptisms)  
**John 3: 1 - 9, 14 - 17**  
**Romans 8: 12 - 17**  
**Children of God**

**Good morning** to all of you here in St Marc's, and to those of you joining us on Zoom...

**PRAY**

Today's service is very special, for three reasons: first of all, we are baptising 16 people today and welcoming them into the God's family, here in Grenoble, and throughout the world.

But our family is even wider than that - It is the family of God both here on earth, and in heaven.

It is also Mother's Day in France (and Nicaragua!)

And it's no accident that today is also Trinity Sunday.

**Can anyone tell me what we celebrate on Trinity Sunday?**

Yes, we celebrate the wonder of the Holy Trinity – our three in one God.

Some people find it a really hard concept to understand. I think of God – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as THE perfect model of Community, but we'll come back to that again in a few minutes.

In our Gospel passage, we heard about Nicodemus (a very academic man) a member of the Jewish council, coming to Jesus by night (**Why do you think he came at night?**)

Of course, we don't know why; may be because he didn't want to be seen talking to Jesus; but, more likely, it was probably the only time he would be able to have an uninterrupted, deep, discussion with Jesus – the sort academic people really want!

There's no doubt Nicodemus could see that Jesus has a very special link with God; but he wanted to try and understand exactly what that relationship is – in other words who Jesus really is?

And, if you think about it, as Christians, we all need to be really sure about the answer to that question!

In His reply to Nicodemus, Jesus clearly explained the way the Holy Trinity - our Threefold God - works in the life of a believer;

He said 'No-one can understand the kingdom (community?) of God, unless they're born again.

Like many others since, Nicodemus struggled with that concept! How can anyone be 'Born Again after they've grown up??! Well, Jesus explained!

I meet a lot of people who struggle with the expression 'Born Again' – I think it's because they're afraid of the vibrant faith shown by people who have a 'born again' relationship with Jesus.

But, that's exactly the kind of relationship Jesus told Nicodemus we need! If we are to understand the Kingdom of God.

Jesus said, we need to be born not only of water – some people think that He was talking about water baptism - but He was probably talking about physical birth, which happens to all of us! (I'm not a midwife – fortunately! But I knew my children were about to be born when I was told the 'waters had broken'!

But Jesus said, we also need to be born of the Spirit – we need to receive the power of the Holy Spirit; and then, we'll really understand 'Born Again!!'

Lots of people struggle with the concept of the Holy Trinity – it's the relationship and action of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in our lives; and I used to find it difficult to explain! Until my friend Norman Warren described it to me like a torch or flashlight!

You can have a battery and a bulb but, until you connect them up, the power is unable to flow to provide the light. When you connect them up, then you have a light, which shines and lights up the darkness.

That 'connection' of God's power is provided by the Holy Spirit, who allows the bright light of Jesus Christ to shine in, through and out of our lives.

It's that vibrant, clear, light of Jesus, which marks us out as God's children, and helps us to proclaim the Good News about Jesus, without needing to say very much at all!

And, there'd be something wrong with me if I didn't say something about verses 16 + 17, which are two of the most wonderful verses in the Bible –

Jesus tells us about the amazing way in which God loves the world, which means each and every one of us – no matter who we are or what we have or haven't done in our lives

He loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die, so that everyone, and anyone, who believes in Him, won't be destroyed – as our sin deserves, but will have eternal life – whole, fulfilling and everlasting life!

So those of you being baptised today, know that you have a promise you can look forward to -

God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die, so that everyone, and anyone, who chooses to believe in Him, should not be destroyed – as our sinfulness deserves, but will have eternal life – that is whole, fulfilling and everlasting life!

It doesn't mean life will suddenly become magically easier, but it does mean Jesus will be with you every step that you take; and above everything else, you know for certain that, when your life here on earth is over, you will have a safe and blessed home to go to in our Father's kingdom.

And that is something really special to celebrate this Trinity Sunday!  
In fact that's why we celebrate Trinity Sunday!!

So, as I close, **Let's Pray ...**

Come Holy Spirit