

# Saint Joseph's Church



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# Weekly Parish Bulletin

## SUNDAY READINGS PERSPECTIVE Believe and Be Saved

The first line in the Gospel reading is powerful: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." God's love for us is so great that he has found a way to bring us from death into life in himself.

And what is that way? Well, as the Gospel says, you must believe in the only Son of God. But what is it to believe in the Son of God? Believing in a person is not the same as believing that a claim is true, is it? To believe in a person is to trust that person for some things.

So to believe in the only Son of God is to trust him.

Trust him for what? Well, trust him to bring us from death into life. That is what the Gospel says, isn't it? God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

So here is God's funny system. You are saved from death by believing in the Son of God, *and* you believe in him if you are willing to believe that he saves you from death. Your contribution to your salvation is to believe that God will save you.

Of course, it is important not to get mixed up here. Your contribution is not the self-congratulatory belief *that* you are saved, or the even funnier but equally self-flattering belief *that* you have belief in the Son of God. No, your contribution is really just to believe *in* the Son of God.

Think of it this way. If I say that I believe you are my only way of getting out of this burning building alive and then settle down to watch TV, what I say isn't true, is it? What I say turns out to be true only if I am glued on you, totally focused on following you out of that burning building. If I really believe you can save me from the building burning around me, I will certainly cleave to you now.

How much more should we cleave to the Saviour when we believe in him and trust him to bring us from death into life?

*Eleonore Stump*

## Welcome to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Gregory Murphy OP

Parish Priest

Rev. Ron Wylie, B.Div.

Deacon

Sr. Maria Kosisochukwa Ifediba

Parish Sister

Also providing Spiritual Care for the Polish People living in Dundee, Angus and North Fife

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## LIVESTREAM MASS

**There is a livestream Mass from St Joseph's today, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00am.**

**Celebrant – Fr Greg Murphy.**

**Hymns and response to psalm can be found on the 3<sup>rd</sup> page of today's bulletin.**

## GLANCING THOUGHTS

### The Story of Our Lives

No matter what you have heard, it is not so hard to understand the Trinity. Simply think back to the great story we have been celebrating for many weeks.

Let's tell it one more time.

God the Father invited people on earth to a lasting and loving relationship with him and with each other. "I want to be your God and I want you to be my people. My love for you is tender and precious. Won't you love me in return?"

Some understood and entered into the agreement. Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Elijah, Elisha, just to begin the list. But they and the rest of us humans kept choosing things easier to grab, like money and honours—barns full of them.

Our refusal of God's love became widespread. How did God react to such rejection?

My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me. For your sake I scourged your captors.....

## GLANCING THOUGHTS

### The Story of Our Lives (Continued)

...and their first-born sons, but you brought your scourges down on me! My people, answer me (from "The Reproaches" on Good Friday)!

God tried a new and quite brilliant way. "Since I am all love and nothing but love, I will go out to them totally. As love does, I will become one of them. I will live humanity to its depths, and they will see love spelled out."

So God was born as a human called Jesus. He was the heart of God, now made flesh. One with the Father but different as well. And so the world knew about two persons in one God. Jesus told people to love God above all things and their neighbours as themselves.

But many human beings had been hurt and betrayed, living with their own selfishness and greed, as well as their mixed-up motives, co-existing motives with those of others too. Love can get lost in such a world.

It was into this ocean of cruelty and loss that God the Son plunged. He dived all the way down to death. It was a display of the most profound insides of God's love.

To that point the disciples knew only two parts of God, Jesus and his Father (and they were not very sure about these). So before he left, Christ said this to them (paraphrase):

*Philip, and the rest of you, if you know me you know the Father. He is in me fully, and after I go back I will make a home in you by sending the Holy Spirit. This Comforter will be the very love that I and the Father have for each other and for you. That way I will be with you until the end of time!*

He was talking about the third person of the Trinity, which nestles close to our souls if we let it. Only if we let it. The Holy Spirit is graceful and deep and comforting, like a blanket in cold winter. It is the love between the Father and Son.

So how can God interact with us in these three very different ways?

By being "plural," that is, by being three "persons." How can three be one?

By not letting the number three be a divider but a plus sign.

All three, in a great dynamic of love, are so close to one another that they are One God.

Now we understand?

*John Foley, SJ*