

TO-DAY there's no text. Other feasts are about the life of Jesus or the experience of the Church. Trinity-Sunday is simply about God ; no single text can do him justice. But despite that, and though our conversation is in heaven, we're creatures rooted in the here and now ; there's got to be something practical, something relateable in what we say about the Trinity. We've had great poetry from Isaiah, and a glancing reference from Jesus at the very end of S.Matthew's gospel. What else can be said?

I've no killer formula, no clever analogy, and speculation about the hypostatic union I've always thought is pointless. The Trinity is a relationship so harmonious, so complete, that we can neither grasp it nor imagine it. God is Three and God is One : not just three experiences, three aspects, three modes of being ; not even three full and valid encounters (though that's how the doctrine started). God is three persons in a unity unbroken and unbreakable, in perfect coexistence, one single substance. Beyond that we can't go, because perfection is beyond our experience. But relationships are not.

Relationships are not beyond our experience, even though we're not very good at them. Think of just now. Keeping relationships going is the hardest thing about lockdown. The relationship between the Prime Minister and Mr Cummings has made it even harder. Circumstances are making us intense with some people, and remote from other people. Lockdown is hammering home that relationships are crucial, are vital, are what make us human. To-day's feast shews us that we have the fact of relationship in common with the divine.

We know we're imperfectly related but really connected —as humans with other humans, as mortals with other mortals, as creatures with other creatures. This relatedness, this connectedness, we also have in common with the Being who is beyond and beneath all being, with the Life that transcends and underpins all lives, with God the Three in One and One in Three. God in Trinity is God in connectedness, God in relationship.

There's no single Christian ideology, or code, or slogan to beguile a sinful world. Instead, we have this knowledge to share : relationship, connectedness, the thing we humans value above all else, is at the centre of the universe. God above us, God amongst us, God within us : he is perfect in being, in balance, and in love.