



## GOD'S INVITATION TO US

When Andrei Rublev's icon of the Trinity was suddenly everywhere last century, it captured imaginations and offered a fresh way of contemplating the life of God that was far removed from rather literal and sometimes mathematical approaches to mystery. Catherine La Cugna, in *God For Us* writes, 'The doctrine of the Trinity is ultimately a practical doctrine with radical consequences for Christian life.'

Trinity Sunday reminds us that at the very heart of our faith is God's invitation to be part of the life of God and to call forth loving relationships in our community and in the wider world. Catherine La Cugna states: 'Trinity is not an abstract teaching about God apart from us, but a teaching about God's life with us and our life with each other.'

## ANDREI RUBLEV'S ICON

Andrei Rublev painted the Trinity icon in honour of St Sergius, one of Russia's beloved saints, at a time of war and division in 15th century Russia. The only words that are known to have come from St Sergius are: 'The contemplation of the Holy Trinity destroys all enmity'. In a troubled time, it was hoped that Russia could be brought together in God's name. Over many centuries, the icon became clouded by the smoke of many candles lit as people prayed with the icon. At one stage, the

The way God comes to us  
is also our way to God  
and to each other:

through Jesus Christ by the  
power of the Holy Spirit.

Catherine LaCugna *God for Us*

Icon was partially covered with a silver oklad or riza so that only the faces were visible. Extensive restoration took place at the beginning of the 20th century which revealed the unique beauty of an icon that enriched the revival of Trinitarian theology and spirituality.

## HOUSE OF PERFECT LOVE



Well known spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen, writes in *Behold the Beauty of the Lord, Praying With Icons*, that Rublev's icon 'gives us a glimpse of the house of perfect love'.

Icons are written prayerfully according to long standing traditions and are intended to draw people into prayer. Henri Nouwen says: 'Living in the house of God ... is a revelation of the inner beauty of God. Rublev's icon allows us a preview of this inexpressible beauty'.

There are copies of *Behold the Beauty of the Lord* in the parish library.

Henri Nouwen has also reflected in *Sabbatical Journey*:

I am deeply convinced that most human suffering comes from broken relationships. ... the source is in conflict between people who yearn for unity, community, and a deep sense of belonging. By claiming the Holy Trinity as home for our relational lives, we claim the truth that God gives us what we most desire and offers us the grace to forgive each other for not being perfect in love.

## LIVING TRINITARIAN LOVE

Each day in our world, beauty is born anew; it rises, transformed, through the storms of history. Human beings arise, time after time, from situations that seemed doomed. Where all seems to be dead, signs of resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. *The Joy of the Gospel* 276

Throughout his writings, the late Fr Daniel O'Leary reminded readers that in Christ our humanity is transformed, that God is the energy behind every heartbeat of our lives. In a 2018 bulletin for his parishioners he wrote:

Christ rises in your heart when:

*You wake in the morning with new hope;*  
*You go to bed with a forgiving heart;*  
*You truly grieve at another's loss;*  
*Your heart rejoices at another's joy;*  
*You keep your temper with a trying friend;*  
*You refuse to nurse a niggling hurt;*  
*You try again to transform your fears;*  
*You face the routine of another day;*  
*You try again to say 'I'm sorry';*  
*Your broken heart begins to mend;*  
*You notice beauty you missed before;*  
*You weep at the greed that causes war;*  
*You delight when love comes round again;*  
*You put together the broken pieces, and make with God, a work of art;*  
*You dare to love despite the grief;*  
*You discover, within your winter, a summer that never ends;*  
*You hold the earth and all people as you hold the hearts of those you love;*  
*You trust in dawn at the darkest hour;*  
*You accept your weakness and it makes you strong;*  
*When you try to live in the present moment;*  
*When you know your freedom is truly won and you dance on your grave like the Easter Son.*

## RISING PRAYER

Thanks be to the Father  
I arise today  
He gives me light  
He guides my way

Thanks be to the Saviour  
I arise today  
He gives me love  
He hears me pray

Thanks be to the Spirit  
I arise today  
He gives me life  
With me to stay

David Adam

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

27 May to 3 June

National Reconciliation Week started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities. In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia's first National Reconciliation Week.

## TWO IMPORTANT DATES IN OUR HISTORY

May 27 and June 3 are important dates in Australia's history. May 27 marks the anniversary of the 1967 referendum when Australians voted to remove clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. June 3 marks the historic 1992 Mabo decision in which the High Court of Australia recognised native title—the recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights over their lands did survive British colonisation.

As we celebrate the beautiful feast of God's loving and inclusive hospitality, we might pray with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, especially during National Reconciliation Week.

## AN ABORIGINAL BLESSING

by Brooke Prentice

May our footsteps, on these ancient lands,  
remind us of creation and connectedness,  
in our search for truth.

May the Gum Tree, from its roots to its branches,  
remind us to dig deep and reach high,  
in our action for justice.

May the Eagle, who soars in the sky,  
remind us of the power, in our call for love.

May the expanse of the lands and seas, of the sky and stars,  
remind us of God's timing in our faith in hope.

May the Holy three, Creator Spirit, Lord God, Jesus,  
remind us of community.

So with grace, mercy, and peace,  
go in truth, justice, love and hope.

