

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

# WATERFALL

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Reflecting on the Gospel*

##### *The Trinity (Matthew 28: 16-20)*

The full nature of God is a mystery which men and women have struggled to grasp and to express. The doctrine of the Trinity affirms that God has been made known in the world in three characteristic ways, as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit. The way in which the early church chose to express this mystery was in terms of 'three persons in one God'. The doctrine of the Trinity is rooted in Matthew's account of Jesus' command to the disciples to baptise in 'the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'.

Our image to stimulate reflection on the *mystery* behind the doctrine of the Trinity is a *waterfall*.

#### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 28: 18-20)*

And Jesus came and said to the disciples,  
'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.'

#### *Gospel prayer*

Glorious and Holy Trinity,  
you reign over all things.  
We praise the Father,  
we praise the Son,  
we praise the Holy Spirit,  
we praise the Glorious and Holy Trinity;  
today and always.  
Amen.

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME**

### ***Reflecting and meditating***

Reflect on the great commission given by Jesus to his disciples in Matthew 28: 16-20:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

### ***Thinking and talking***

- why do you think Matthew locates the great commission on the mountain?
- how do you read the mixed response, 'they worshipped him; but some doubted'?
- how important is the notion of baptizing in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- how helpful do you find the idea of *mystery* behind the doctrine of the Trinity?
- what does the doctrine of the Trinity say for us today?

### ***Using your Bible***

Explore other references to the Trinity in the New Testament:

- Mark 1: 10-11
- 2 Corinthians 13: 13 (or verse 14 in older translations)

Explore how water prompts wonder for God's creativity in the Old Testament:

- Psalm 8: 1-5
- Psalm 65: 9-10
- Isaiah 40: 12-15

### ***Exploring online***

- explore what is the mystery of the Trinity
- explore pictures of waterfalls, including Aber Falls
- explore making an indoor waterfall

### ***Drawing on experience***

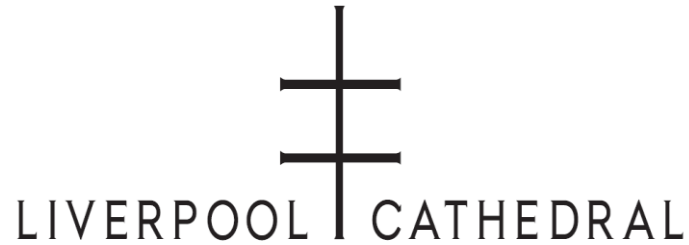
- what is your experience of visiting a waterfall?
- how does being in the presence of water open your eyes to the wonder of God?
- what is your experience of the mystery of God?

## TRINITY SUNDAY (YEAR A) SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2020

### *Creating and making*

- place a picture of a waterfall in a prominent place in your home
- draw together images of waterfalls, with the title 'On Trinity Sunday we celebrate the wonder and mystery of God'
- make a collage of images that alert you to the mystery of God
- create a reflection, poem or prayer reflecting on the mystery of the doctrine of the Trinity

TRINITY SUNDAY (YEAR A) SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2020



## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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