



**St Andrew's Parish Church Guernsey**  
**Trinity Sunday – Sunday, 30 May 2021**  
**Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8 Gospel of John 3:1-17**  
**Given by Rev Juliette E C Robilliard**

**Back to childhood to move forward in faith**

When you were young did you, like me, occasionally get the scathing remark from your older siblings “Oh! Why don't you grow up!” Or, maybe you said that to your younger brothers and sisters? Either way, today, I want you to do the complete opposite and do as Jesus urged Nicodemus: to put aside his academic and theological knowledge absorbed during his life as a learned Pharisee and get back to basics. Effectively, to become a holy baby, learning with childlike openness of heart and mind inspired by the Spirit to receive God's truth.

Today I'm using triangular illustrations to help make my point. Here's a whopping bar of Toblerone. The box tells us many different things:

1. on this side, its name - TOBLERONE;
2. on the next side, where it's made; and
3. on the far side that it contains 24,000 calories!

One inescapable fact, however, is that whichever side you view the box, Toblerone is a unity of 100% chocolate all the way through!

**Three is definitely company**

Today's Collect for Trinity Sunday reminds us that, Almighty God, in his divine unity gives us grace and a true faith to be steadfast against adversity. But how, when life presents so many challenges? In every phase of our lives God is willing to meet us in his image that most resonates with our need of him:

1. as our Father and Creator;
2. as his Son, born in our likeness to become our Redeemer; and,
3. as his Holy Spirit, to be the fire in our faith, to sustain us in our discipleship.

The one inescapable fact is that whichever facet of the Holy Trinity we relate to, in his divine unity, he is 100% God all the way through. Such love and grace deserve, a response.

**Saved to serve**

God calls us to be united in faith and serve him but, just like Nicodemus, too often in trying to serve him Christians can complicate things with religion rather than a true and simple faith. God knows that we are not the perfect creatures he created us to be, hence he sent his Son, for our redemption. To support our human capabilities, at our baptism, he granted us the Holy Spirit to equip us with holy skills ready for use: 'use' being the operative word!

Individually, we're a bit like a small bar of Toblerone, we have ability to serve and, when we work together, we look like a united pyramid of individual Toblerones with even greater potential. Together, using our individual gifts of the Holy Spirit joined in unity, we take on the image of God serving, as the Body of Christ, inspired by his Spirit.

### **But is Christian service that simple?**

You might say but what we receive as the truth may not find universal acceptance? True, however, in calling us to be faithful to his mission, God does not hold us responsible for the receptivity of others. Our responsibility is to show others the way using the tools he provides. Daily prayer and refreshing our understanding of the Bible will enable his love to infuse our every thought, word and deed. Together, with the Holy Spirit's inspiration our actions can speak louder than words. Put simply, everything about the church and our part in it through daily living and witness, should flow from who Jesus is and what God will achieve through him.

### **Willing to serve?**

To summarise, a bar of Toblerone is of no worth if no one opens the box and eats it. With united faith let us find fresh ways of opening up our church to help draw others in. God the Holy Trinity gives us his divine love daily: are we, like the prophet Isaiah, inspired each day to say: "Here I am, send me."

Amen.

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