

Beyond logic



Gillian Cooper *reflects on* Matthew 28:16-20

Today we celebrate the only Sunday to be named after a doctrine – Trinity Sunday. In our Gospel reading Jesus promises his disciples that he will be with them “always, to the end of the age.” Yet the physical, human Jesus leaves the world. So how can that be? He also commands the disciples to baptise in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Today we are invited to get our minds round the idea that the one God, the only power in the universe, can also be spoken of as three distinct persons. It is mind-blowing to think about – and illogical. The best theologians have struggled to find ways of defining the Trinity, and of talking about it in ways that make logical sense. But perhaps logic is not the point. The doctrine of the Trinity may be difficult to get our heads round, but it tells us something very important. It tells us that God is not encountered only in one way, but is present for us in as many ways as we need. It appeals not to our logical brains, but to our spirits and emotions. This is our God, who is ancient and vast and fierce and gentle and human and beyond human, and too much of it all to be spoken of as one person. Our God is not limited to one time or place. God is there in all time and eternity. God is past, present and future. This is the magnificent, astonishing God that we see in Jesus and know through the Spirit in our daily lives. ☺

God of mystery, universal power, we thank you for being there for us in every way, for ever. Help us to appreciate how awesome that is, and to walk in your truth. Amen.

Inner Journey, Outer Journey

by James Roose-Evans

Concluding our serialisation of extracts from James Roose-Evans' enduring classic.

I developed an acute depression that continued for weeks. I did what I often do in such circumstances – I drew. I began by drawing the bottom of a dried-up well. My pen sketched a deep vertical tunnel with a little stick figure at the bottom, representing myself. I drew a friar lowering a bucket which contained a single drop of moisture. At the bottom I noticed a slight opening, so I drew further. Beyond lay a cave,

in which was an altar, upon which lay a seed. I knew it was my task to water the seed. It was, of course, the seed of prayer one must water daily. My pen sketched tendrils growing from the seed, climbing up through the dark, forming the roots, trunk and finally the branches of a mighty tree stretching into the sky. In the tree I drew many faces – women, men and children – forming the living Tree of Christ. ☺

James' blog can be found at: www.jamesrooseevans.co.uk.



His book is available from Redemptorist Publications:
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World Day against Child Labour

by Lisa Tulfer

Friday is World Day against Child Labour. Launched in 2002, this day focuses attention on the global extent of child labour, and efforts to eliminate it. The 2015 Sustainable Development Goals include a global commitment to end child labour in all its forms by 2025.

Currently, over two hundred million children around the world work, many full-time, losing out

on education and the freedom to play. In the UK, we may think of child actors, or a paper round, although sadly we know that there are children working in unsuitable conditions on our very doorstep. Worldwide, seventy per cent of working children work in agriculture. Too often children work in hazardous conditions, as slaves, in forced labour, drug trafficking, prostitution, or are involved in armed conflict.

Jesus said “Let the little children come to me... for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” So on Friday let's pray for the world's working children, that they may regain their childhood. ☺

“If God were not willing to forgive sin, heaven would be empty.”

German proverb