



The Parish Churches of S Philip and S Augustine
and S Matthew with S Mary the Virgin Newcastle

Homily for Trinity Sunday (31st May) 2026

This is a version of the homily, which will be used at Mass today.

Christian festivals celebrate people - like Saint Matthew - or events - like Christmas or Easter. Some people suggest that Trinity Sunday is, therefore, unusual or unique, because it focuses not on a person or event, but on an idea, almost - the doctrine of the Holy Trinity made accessible to us through the form of words we describe as the *Catholic Creeds* - among them the *Nicene Creed* that we usually use at Mass on Sundays and the shorter *Apostles' Creed*, which we shall use today.

However, this suggestion that Trinity Sunday is about a doctrine is not quite right. Rather it is about the God, Whom the doctrine describes. The incarnate Ministry of Jesus Christ threw up all sorts of questions about the nature of God, which earlier generations of Christians had to contemplate. The *Catholic Creeds* are the fruits of that reflexion, as it were conjuring up something of the God, Who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In a few moments, we shall ask Autumn, together with the whole congregation to express her belief in that *Triune* God through the words of the *Apostles' Creed*. In the context of her Baptism, it is almost a way of introducing her to the God, Who will baptize her.

Over the past few weeks, she has spent some time learning a little bit what the form of words means - a bit like researching about someone important you know you are going to meet - perhaps in the search for a job or to defend your PhD thesis.

Once you meet these people, you move from knowing **about** them to a relationship **with** them; and that is the point at which Autumn finds herself this morning. Her Baptism is a bit like shaking hands with God and starting her relationship with Him. Like all relationships, her relationship with God will be unique to her as she makes her way through life - and it will change and deepen over the years.

We, who gather with Autumn this morning, have, for the most part have been developing our own relationship with God for some time; but like all relationships, our relationship with God is not static and we cannot feel that ours has found a stable and unalterable level. New experiences, different circumstances and simply the passing of time continue to change and deepen our relationship with God.

This is the bread-and-butter of Christian discipleship: as it were, breathing life into our intellectual belief in the one God, Who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.