

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

# SPACE TRAVEL

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Introducing the Gospel*

##### *The Trinity (John 16: 12-15)*

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'. In John's Gospel Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples before the arrest and trial provides biblical roots for the distinctive activities of God as Father, Jesus as Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The image to stimulate reflection on the mystery of God as Holy Trinity is *space travel*.

#### *Core extract from the Gospel (John 16: 13-15); for reflection throughout the week)*

Jesus said, 'When the Spirit of truth comes,  
he will guide you into all the truth;  
for he will not speak on his own,  
but will speak whatever he hears,  
and he will declare to you the things that are to come.  
He will glorify me,  
because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.  
All that the Father has is mine.  
For this reason I said  
that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

#### *Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)*

Holy and Glorious Trinity,  
you are older than time  
and greater than space.  
We praise the Father,  
we praise the Son,  
we praise the Holy Spirit,  
we praise the Holy and Glorious Trinity;  
today and always.  
Amen.

### READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

**John 16: 12-15**

‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

## ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

### *Dwelling with the text (John 16: 12-15)*

Begin to explore John's account of Jesus' teaching during the last supper by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

### *Thinking and talking*

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What does this passage say about God the Father?
- What does this passage say about Jesus the Son?
- What does this passage say about the Holy Spirit?
- Does this passage really contain seeds for the Doctrine of the Trinity?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

### *Using your Bible*

Recall the context for this passage within the farewell discourse.

- John 16: 1-11

Explore passages of scripture that express the mystery of God.

- Job 11: 7-12
- Job 38: 1-21
- Psalm 19: 1-6
- Psalm 50: 1-6
- Romans 16: 25-27
- 1 Corinthians 2: 1-9

## TRINITY SUNDAY (YEAR C) Sunday 15 June 2025

### *Exploring online*

Widen your exploration of the mystery of God as Holy Trinity by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Images of God as Trinity
- the Holy Trinity
- God as mystery

### *Drawing on experience*

The image to stimulate reflection on the mystery of God as Holy Trinity is *space travel*. Draw on your thoughts about the mystery of space. For example:

- Have you experienced wonder of the universe?
- Has your imagination been caught by the mystery of space?
- What do you think about the possibility of space travel?

What have you learned about the mystery of God?

### *Creating and making*

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by the mystery of the Holy Trinity or by the image of space travel.

- Create a collage about space and space travel.
- Create a poster of images of God as Trinity.
- Collect images of the night sky.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the mystery of the Holy Trinity or on the image of space travel.



**Liverpool  
Cathedral**

## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

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.

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.



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