The scriptural readings for the day are carefully chosen to reflect the Three-in-One doctrine: God as Creator, Christ as redeemer and Holy Spirit comforter guide. The scriptural readings provide Biblical backup for a non scriptural word: “Trinity”.

Although this mystery of God, revealed in three ways, is the core belief of Christianity, many struggle to explain it.

Water has often been called forth as a witness. This common earthly element exists on this earth as a gas, a liquid and a solid. A film, something to do with nuns!! used the shamrock & its three leaves as an illustration of “Three forms, one substance”.

At a very simple level I am a father, husband and me Rick, Three names, three relationships -- and yet the same person. Amazing!?

Within our Christian community these days, the doctrine of the Trinity is called many things besides amazing. Some call it archaic, obsolete or patriarchal.

Some, believing that the ancient confessional statements and doctrines no longer serve us and  have abandoned Trinitarian language  for something less strenuous to understand.

Some have chosen a favourite member of the Trinity and have put all of their theological eggs in one basket.

Pentecostals emphasise Holy Spirit, middle of the road Anglicans stick to Lord meaning Jesus Christ with an over arching GOD, but no one seems to be emphasising the forgotten FATHER.

Some, concerned that the Trinity expressed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit portrays the Godhead as overly male, and have worked to change the language.

Some opt to ignore the Father-Son relationship and speak only of the functions of the three: Creator, Redeemer, and Counsellor. Others are outraged that Christians, especially Christian leaders, tinker so casually with the ancient language of the faith, the faith in which “we were baptize and administer Communion”.

No doubt the conversation and the debates will continue, and well they should.

Yet how important is it to explain the Trinity? Can we not leave it as a mystery? God revealed to us in three distinct ways? Mysteries explained cease to be mysteries, don't they? Perhaps the doctrine of the Trinity challenges our desire to know God and try to put Him into the ‘right box' and eliminate the mystery. Was this not the burning desire of Adam and Eve, in the Garden, a desire to understand and be like God that ultimately caused them to fall from grace and us with them?

It seems to me that instead of explaining how these three personas are really one, which cannot be confused or separated; we must try to do what the doctrine of the Trinity was originally formulated to do: give common words to explain our faith in our amazing God.

To speak of the Trinity, the One God who is made known to us as the Creator of all, the redeeming Christ and the life-giving Spirit, is to use a shorthand way of expressing the depths of the faith. Without the mystery of the Trinity, we might be tempted to worship a one-dimensional deity. This bigger, fuller  view of God lifts up a God who is more than a Creator who made the world out of nothing, more than the God who redeemed us more than a God who just empowers us.

We worship God who continues to create and move among us. Each day is a new day, thanks to the Spirit of God in our midst. God's work in Jesus is the prime example of God's continuing creative and redeeming work among us and despite us.

The Trinity gives language to our strongest belief that our God is not merely a God of history, performing mighty acts only in Bible times, but a powerful, ever present God who was who is and who is to come again.

I / we don't understand the TRINITY, no more than we understand love. We do not need to try nor need to apologize for God's mysteries. What we do need to explain, in language that some will understand and accept is that **God is with us**, bring healing and hope and what God promises will be accomplished.

For many Christians, the language of the Trinity has been a useful piece of language enabling us to proclaim our faith, and we need to have such language to help us make Jesus known to those who, during those momentous times in life,  approach us and ask: “I understand you're a Christian. Can you explain it to me? Can God help me?”

**Rick**