

This fruitfulness of community is an image and manifestation of the self-expression of the Trinity. God spoke the word – and the whole of creation came into being. It is as if the ecstasy of the Trinitarian relationship is unable to contain itself and must explode outwards in creative delight. Our existence and all creation around us bursts out of the joy of the community of the Trinity.



FRUITS OF TOGETHERNESS

Many of us have opportunities during our lifetime to make community with one or more people, to share in the creative work of the community of the Trinity. Maybe through projects with young people, or homeless people; through nursing care and campaigning groups; in orchestras and allotments; in parishes and on pilgrimage. When we join with others in our endeavours, that focused togetherness can radiate with an unexpected intensity and Trinitarian fruitfulness which is far more than the sum of our parts. Indeed it is a reliable sign of flourishing communities when, secure in their stability and commitment to each other, they are able to turn outwards and offer the fruits of their togetherness way beyond their own boundaries and limitations.

For more information on the Season of Creation: <https://seasonofcreation.org>

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven
and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of
heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

FIRST READING Genesis 2:14-17

PSALM Psalm 127

RESPONSE May the Lord bless us
all the days of our life.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. R.
2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. R.

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! R.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:9-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
As long as we love one another
God will live in us
and his love will be complete in us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 10:2-16

COMMUNION ANTIIPHON

Though many, we are one bread, one body,
for we all partake of the one Bread and one
Chalice.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Wisdom 7:7-11
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:47-50



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COMMUNITY



One of the ways in which some people participate most intimately in God's continuing work of creation is through the conception of new life within the sacrament of marriage. In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of marriage as a very particular union, so that "they are no longer two, therefore, but one body", and the Church recognises the potential fecundity of such commitment as a sacred gift, sharing in God's creative work. At its most fundamental, the community of one person with another is creative in the form of new life.

But children are not the only fruit of marriage. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* speaks also of the fruits of charity, hospitality and sacrifice. These are universal fruits, but each couple will also have the potential to be fruitful together in a myriad of ways, both domestic and social, that are quite particular to them.

As a hermit, I am inspired by the community of marriage, without being able to offer any insights into the living of it. But I do have some wonderful experiences of the community of friendship, as did St Cuthbert. Monastic communities are often held to be places of great hospitality and welcome – they certainly were considered so in Cuthbert's day when travel was long, slow and difficult. Travellers came to rely on them as refuges on their journeys.

The picture shows Cuthbert arriving at the Melrose Monastery to begin his life with the community there. He is welcomed by the prior, Boisil. St Bede tells us: "Foreseeing in spirit what an illustrious man the stranger would become, Boisil made this single remark to the bystanders: 'Behold a servant of the Lord!'" Cuthbert and Boisil became very good friends, and there is another delightful image of Cuthbert perched on the edge of Boisil's deathbed as they study the Gospel of John together during the last week of Boisil's life. Cuthbert was committed to Boisil through community living and through friendship – another expression of God's fecundity as their friendship bore fruit in their learning, in the governance of the monastery and in Cuthbert's flourishing in his own spiritual path.

Season of Creation



Over the last few weeks, we have been celebrating the Season of Creation as "a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together". Today is the last Sunday of the season and we refer back to the source of all creativity – the community of the Trinity. Rachel Denton is a diocesan hermit and has written these pieces from her urban hermitage, which is dedicated to St Cuthbert.

3 OCTOBER 2021

27TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK III