

Sunday Message from Fr William for the Fifteenth Sunday of the Year 2023

continued from last Sunday

We've set out on a quest to find out what the next world will be like, the world Jesus Christ refers to as 'that world' or 'the other world'. (Luke 20:35). I began by asking, Who will be there? Jesus Christ will be there. I introduced him as the second person you will come to know deeply. The Spirit will be there. I introduced him as the third person you will come to know deeply. And I've begun to tell you the kind of personal relationship you can begin to have with each of them already in this world, a personal relationship that will carry forward into the 'other world'. Christian tradition sometimes refers to them as The Second Person, and The Third Person. If they are The First Person and the Third Person in 'the other world', who is the First Person?

Rather than introducing him myself, far better I allow Jesus Christ to introduce:

'The Father knows me and I know the Father' (John 10:15)

'What the Father has told me is what I speak' (John 12: 50)

'No one comes to the Father except through me' (John 14:6)

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you' (John 15:9)

'I am going to the Father' (John 16:10)

'If you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name' (John 16:23)

'I came from the Father and have come into the world and now I am leaving the world to go to the Father' (John 16: 28)

For Jesus, central to all his joys is his 'going to the Father'. For us too in 'the other world', central to all our joys will be 'going to the Father'. Hold onto that idea. It's going to be central.

In the meantime Jesus Christ invites us into a personal relationship with the Father already in this world, and into an ever deepening relationship. He speaks of him as 'the Father' when he's speaking to us about him. But he also speaks of him as 'my Father'. And when he speaks *to* the Father, as he does constantly, it's simply 'Father'.

And now he's teaching us to call him 'Father' too. In fact, Jesus Christ is so working things in this world, as we'll see, that the Father becomes our Father in reality, and we become his sons and daughters.

What is he like? He is all giving, giving, giving. As Father it's fundamental to what he is like. And it's fundamental to us as his sons and daughters to live by his gifts, to live by his fatherly providence. It's part of what it means for us to be his children.

Call on him often in your day-to-day life. Ask him for the things you need. Tell him your deepest desires. 'Father, show me today that I am your beloved son / show me today that I am your beloved daughter.' Then look out for the ways he demonstrates this to you during the course of the day. Then the next day: 'Father, show me again!' He loves that.

To be continued...



Fifteenth Sunday of
the Year, 16 July 2023