

Sunday Message from Fr William for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year 2023

*The 'Other World' continued*

Yes, in the 'other world', the life of the Son is one of infinite Freedom. And in the 'other world' we share in his infinite Freedom by being joined to him, by being 'grafted' into the Body of Christ. But what about our own personal freedom in the 'other world'? A great question! And it will be an important one to explore.

But first I want to take you on a voyage into space. I want you to discover with me in the vastness of this created order new images of the 'other world'. Out of all the millions of stars shining in the night sky, suppose we pick one out, a particularly bright one, a thousand light years away across the galaxy. And now it's time to set out on our voyage towards it. Let's go.

On our journey we keep our sights set on our destination, this distant bright point of light. For most of the journey it appears to be a single star. But as you get closer you begin to see that it is in fact not one star but two stars, separate and distinct. And not only that but they are orbiting around each other. It's what cosmologists call a 'binary star' or a 'binary star system'.

You could in theory continue your space voyage right into the middle of this pair of orbiting stars. From this central vantage point, look in one direction and you see Star A; look in the other direction and you see Star B. You've come a long way from seeing these two stars as a single point of light. But your voyage hasn't ended yet. It's estimated that 50-60% of binary stars with stable orbits are capable of supporting habitable planets. And you're in luck. This binary star system is one of these.

Your journey ends with you touching down on one of these planets, and establishing a base, establishing a community, establishing a home. As inhabitants of a planet belonging to a binary star system, you are no longer just observers of it. As human beings you have become an integral part of the binary star system.

I don't know. Could it be that here again, this time out here in outer space, is an example of the Trinity leaving clues for us to discover, clues about their eternal life? And clues about how we are destined to participate in their eternal life?

Now just to be clear, in case there was any doubt, I'm not suggesting that the Trinity actually is a binary star system. Each binary star, even if it's a thousand light years from planet earth, is 'this world', not the 'other world'. The same goes for every bit of the created universe. It's still this world. But equally we can expect the created universe to be bursting with images of the 'other world', bursting with images of the life of the Trinity, because as Creator, they want to be known, and by us. So they leave reflections of their life, reflections of the 'other word' everywhere, all over the place, and clues about our own place in it.

Have a think what aspects of this image might reflect the 'other world', and what are its limitations. We'll compare notes.

*William*

24 September 2023