

Dear Friends,

We are now in the Sundays after Trinity, or as it is now often called 'Sundays in Ordinary time.' Holy Mother Church calls upon us to study the teachings of Christ as He has committed it to His Body, the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. He promised that the Holy Spirit who is the life-force within the Church will guide her in the Truth and remind her of the fullness of the Faith as revealed and taught by Jesus Christ Himself during His earthly Ministry, and especially in the days between His Resurrection and Ascension.

It is rightly said that in order to be saved from the power of sin and death it is necessary to have faith in Christ Jesus. But to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour requires obedience to His Will and the necessity to be a member of His Mystical Body in the world, which He founded on the day of Pentecost when He sent the Holy Spirit upon His assembled Apostles and disciples.

Christ instructed His Apostles and their successors to preach the Gospel to all mankind and to baptise those who accept the Faith, "in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." Christ ordained His Apostles by giving them special gifts of the Holy Spirit to forgive sins in His Name, and the authority to celebrate Holy Communion and feed His disciples with His sacramental Body and Blood, saying "Unless you eat of my flesh (*consecrated Bread*) and drink my Blood (*consecrated Wine*) you have no life in you."

Let us never forget that Our Saviour, God the Son, came to earth as Jesus the Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, to save the whole world from the power of sin and the fear of death; to save all mankind, not just individuals, and to bring them to the fulfilment of their creation, which is companionship with God the Holy Trinity. Everyone is precious in His sight, no one is outside the scope of His salvation. This great truth must never be forgotten.

Our acceptance by the Father is through being a faithful member of the Body of Christ, His Son, through whom all things were and are created and continue to have their being. This true Body of Christ in the world, into which the believer is born again and made a member through the waters of Baptism as commanded by Jesus Himself, is, whether we like it or not, the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church we profess in the Apostles Creed.

There is no salvation outside the Body of Christ for no one is accepted by God the Father on his/her own merits; but because the Father loves the Son, He accepts all who are in Him. It is the will of Christ, as He prayed before His crucifixion, that all who wish to be true Christians must be united as one in His Body the Church as He and His Father are one. As Traditional Anglicans we are determined to obey our Lord, and with prayer, work for genuine unity especially with our brothers and sisters of the rest of the ancient Catholic world. To do otherwise would be to relinquish our claim to be members of Christ and heirs of the Kingdom of heaven.

May God bless us all as we try to be faithful to our Christian calling and members of His Holy Church.

Your friend and priest,

Fr. Brian.