

## John 3 Trinity Sunday

The 58 Australian Jesuit Missionaries who were sent to India in the first 25 years of our mission in Hazaribag went with deep faith in the good news they wanted to share with others. And they were supported by thousands and thousands of people here at home, our parents and grandparents and their friends and now us, who remain convinced, 75 years on, of the timeless value of the good news of what God has done in Jesus. He is the incarnate proof that God is, as we hear in the First Reading today "merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness".

Pope Leo in his first encyclical Magnifica Humanitas released just this week speaks of a task that is given to each generation. Each generation he says, has the task "of shaping its own era, of guiding history to become a place where the dignity of every person is safeguarded, justice is promoted and fraternity is made possible." The Missionaries and Co-Missionaries who have gone before us embraced this task with relish and so do we.

When we call to mind the great personalities and families whose hard work and dedication helped our mission to thrive, it is truly humbling. Many of us can easily reel off a string of names of beloved friends of Jesuit Mission who went above and beyond the call of duty in the service of the poor. We can picture their smiling faces. They are our saints, our heroes: from the Bazaar to the card days and golf days and raffles and other events; from the News From India to all the signs and banners and promotions, to the army of workers in the mission office. Thank God for all of them. We remember them all with gratitude.

Now the torch they carried is in our hands and it is a happy coincidence that we are celebrating this anniversary on the Feast of

the Most Holy Trinity. Trinity Sunday is a celebration of the nature of God as a communion of persons whose love and unity is the model for how we as human beings are called to live in communion with one another.

St Paul's beautiful words in today's Second Reading show us how very early on in the life of the young Church this understanding of God's nature was clearly expressed and understood. Now we too are sharers in this everlasting love of God overflowing into the world, giving us life, salvation, and an ongoing closeness to God in our daily lives through the Divine Son. As we hear in today's Gospel reading: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life."

This fresh and liberating understanding of God revealed by Jesus is the good news that missionaries through the ages took to people longing for that deep peace that only God can give. It was good news for our ancestors who passed it on to us. It was good news for Hazaribag and for people everywhere.

In some ways our world may not appear to have changed much over the past 75 years and as Pope Leo reminds us in *Magnifica Humanitas* there is always the risk of creating a more inhumane and more unjust world. But Pope Leo continues with a quote from the Second Vatican Council (*Gaudium et Spes*) "Whenever humanity is in danger of marring its true identity, we Christians lift our eyes to the Incarnate God, knowing that it is "only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of humanity truly becomes clear." And so Jesuit Mission with the whole Church continues to labour quietly in some of the poorest and most remote parts of the world where we see enormous change for the better, thanks to our missionaries and

to you the co-missionaries who have been their ever faithful, unflinching and generous friends. Thank you so much.

Fr Steve Curtin SJ's Homily, Jesuit Mission Australia Sydney  
Thanksgiving, May 2026.