

## RCIA: INQUIRY SESSION SIX

### TRINITY AND FAITH

Week: 07/11/22- 13/11/22

#### 1. Experience of getting to know someone.

The group will be asked to detail the process of getting to know someone. Hopefully they will mention what another would **say** about themselves; what their **actions** reveal; who/what they are **interested** in; who their **friends** or **relations** are etc.

#### 2. Opening our eyes and hearts.

- 13.8 billion years ago the Big Bang (George Lemaitre). The speed of light, the strength of gravity and the numbers of dimensions of space were just right for our universe to contain life.
- 4.6 billion years ago: A dying star provided the spark to start our sun.
- 4.5 billion years ago: A small planet crashed into our earth, resulting in the creation of our moon.
- 4 billion years ago: Life-giving water arrived from space and from the centre of the earth.
- 3.8 billion years ago: Complex molecules combined to create life. How this happened we do not know.
- 2.7 billion years ago: A chance collision, 'the Fateful Encounter' creates complex life.
- 2.4 billion years ago: A new type of bacteria created oxygen.
- 65 million years ago: A cosmic disaster wipes out the dinosaurs.
- 1 million years ago: Changes in the earth's orbit may have made us intelligent.
- This is an insight into the **existence** of our world/planet.

#### 3. Order and Beauty.

- Consider comments made when a baby is born: Oh he/she is the image of ...! Etc.
- Consider our planet. Share with us the most beautiful/impressive thing in creation you have ever encountered.
- Name some planetary systems/cycles. Examples might be: The seasons, the water cycle, the carbon cycle, the life cycle of salmon/eels, the migration of birds, etc.
- These can give us an insight into the **order** and **beauty** of creation.

#### 4. **The Trinity.**

- God has communicated Godself in creation.
- God has revealed Godself in salvation history.
- Above all God has revealed Godself in Jesus Christ.
- The **Trinity** is One – one God not three gods.
- The **three Divine Persons** are distinct from each other.
- The three Divine Persons are **in relation to each other**.

#### 5. **Faith.**

- Faith is a response to God's revelation.
- Faith is a personal and communal relationship.
- Faith seeks understanding and is a friend of reason.
- Faith is necessary for salvation.
- Faith is a free gift from God.
- Faith is a free human act.
- Faith believes with conviction in a message.

6. **Gospel Reflection:** Sunday 13/11/22 is the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) and the Gospel reading is Lk. 21:5-19. The text of the reading is below. The following format will be used for all Gospel reflections:

- Read the text aloud.
- Pause for a minute's silence.
- Read the text aloud again.
- Ask everyone to pick a word or a phrase that struck them. They just say the word or phrase without comment or discussion.
- Read the text again.
- Ask those present to comment on their word or phrase. What struck them about it? Why/how is it speaking to them?
- Continue with the discussion. The following questions may be helpful: What does this mean to me? How does it make me feel? Did I find the text disturbing/hopeful/confusing? What images of God emerge for me? What do I think that God is saying in this text? What impact does this have on my life?

## GOSPEL READING

Reader: The Lord be with you.

Response: And with your spirit.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he", and "the time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.