

*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 is God. This is the only God - the God who gives himself away totally and completely. The God who by his love draws us into himself.

There isn't another God up there in heaven waiting to pass judgement on us. There is only one God; the God who gave the Law to Moses, the God who gave his Son, who died on the Cross and rose again, the God who loves and who goes on loving for ever and ever.

This was Moses' experience as well. When he went up the mountain of Sinai with the two tablets of stone in his hands, the God that was encountered and proclaimed was *the God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.*

So not two Gods or three Gods but one God. It's the same with creation itself. It is all part of this great act of self-giving love. God making a space for us creatures to discover this love for ourselves, God giving us the freedom to believe or to refuse to believe; God the creator, God the redeemer and God the sustainer, 'One God, one Lord in a Trinity of one Substance.'

*"Brothers, we wish you happiness,"* says St Paul. We can't prove that there is a God who is love. It is not susceptible to scientific enquiry. But if you do want to be happy it is a good place to start.

That's what the Church is - that place, that group of people trying to be happy, beginning to believe in this God of love, trying to be united in this love, trying to live in peace with each other and with the world that God has given us.

*"Greet one another with a holy kiss."* Today we have our parish AGM. The Eucharist, gathering around the altar, hearing the Word of God and sharing in the sacrifice of Christ is the climax of our life, but every meeting, every conversation is an opportunity for this holy kiss. So, come to today's meeting, learn about what is going on in our parish and make your own unique contribution. As our Holy Father, Pope Francis, puts it: "A parish in which each person loves and shares spiritual and material effects is a reflection of the Trinity."

We are probably still *a headstrong people* but God will *forgive us our faults and our sins and will adopt us as his heritage.* Most of all though let us try through prayer and action to reflect that love which is the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *One God, one Lord,* to whom be all *glory and praise* for ever and ever. Amen