

God the Father

- "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:6)
- Who is God the Father? He is the first person of the Blessed Trinity.
- The term "**Blessed Trinity**" means that there is one almighty God who exists as three distinct Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the central mystery of Christianity.
- The **Israelites** certainly had an awareness of God as their Father who had formed them into a people (see Jer. 31:9) and continually cared for them and their needs: "Make his greatness known there, and exalt him in the presence of all the living; because he is our Lord and God, he is our Father for ever" (Tobit:13:4).
- Through the prophet **Jeremiah**, God expressed his intentions toward Israel: And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me" (Jer. 3:19: "Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and on whom you depend?" (Deut. 32:6). To David, especially, God was Father (see 2 Sam. 7:14-15; Ps 89:26). The prophet Isaiah acknowledged our debt to God's loving creation in a beautiful metaphor: "O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, you are the potter; we the work of your hands" (Isa. 64:8),
- Jesus reveals that the first person of the Trinity is our loving Father. The one prayer which Jesus gave us begins with addressing God as '**Our father**'. .
- The final words of the dying Jesus on the Cross were; "**Father into your hands I commend my spirit**".

God and the Christian Family

- **Adam and Eve were made in the image and likeness of God.** We mirror God by our capacity to reason, to choose freely and above all our capacity to love. God created them as man and woman to reflect what God is like in himself (see Gen. 1:27). God is not a man or a

woman. He transcends them. Because God is three in One we also mirror God by our capacity for communion with others.

- Of all the teachings of Christ, the parable of **the prodigal son** best reveals the Father as a God of goodness and compassion towards us His children.
- As Jesus was about to ascend into Heaven he said to the apostles: **"Behold I am ascending to my Father and your Father to my God and your God"**

Questions

1. *How does God our Father make you feel. Would it feel out of place to call God our mother?*
2. *If a natural father splits from his family would his children feel ill at ease in seeing God as a loving father?*
3. *The Parable of the prodigal son reveals the face of a merciful Father. Does this parable speak to your heart?*