

Trinity Sunday (A B C)

Little Martha was very absorbed in drawing something in her scrap book. Her mother was curious and asked her what it was. "I'm drawing God", little Martha replied. "But", her mother replied, "no one knows what God looks like". "Well", they will when I'm finished", she said.

Yes, I suppose everyone has their own image of God and its oftentimes far removed from the bible version. The Old Testament tells us that at the foot of Mount Sinai the Israelites fashioned a Calf out of Gold, called it God, and then worshipped it.

Are there any Golden calves in our society which we seem to tolerate, if not worship? Life and death issues come to mind. Pope Benedict visited Auschwitz a few years ago and stood on the spot where his fellow countryman, the infamous Dr Josef Mengele, decided who should be allowed to live or die.

Are we that much different from him if we, as a society, condone, or even turn a blind eye, to medical experiments on human embryos after which most are discarded. In these cases are we not 'playing God' deciding who should survive or not. The same could apply to the very old a feeble. The golden calf here is man making a God of himself. Moses flew into a rage when he saw his fellow countrymen worshipping the golden calf. We should be more than concerned when we see the First commandment broken as well. Turning a blind eye is a kind of passive acceptance.

Other people invent a caricature of God and become sold on the idea. The renowned philosopher, Nietzsche, said that God was dead but it was Church people who had killed him. How often has God been portrayed as manager of this cosy club called the church filled with "respectable" people who come from "stable" families? This same God would have little time for those who may come from slightly less than functional families. And yet, Scripture tells us that God sent His Son to seek out

and save that which is lost. Are we like Him in this regard? Do we individually or as a church try and help and encourage people get on their feet or pigeon-hole them as being forever losers?

Another image of God which we need to be wary of is what one spiritual writer calls the 'cuddly bear God'. This is a sugar-coated God who is falling over Himself to smooth out all the ruffles of life. This caricature of God keeps us wrapped up in 'cotton wool' and shields us from every suffering even that of our own making. And yet, how many people have found the true God only in their pain? Bearing this in mind the 'cuddly bear' God doesn't sound all that appealing after all. He need to go into 'room 101'

The Book of Genesis says that God made man in 'his own image'. Have we ever been tempted to refashion God in our own image? If so, it's time for us to let God be God and us to see more clearly our creaturely dependence on Him.