

## **A GREAT MYSTERY**

On this Sunday, we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Trinity**. What you might ask is the Trinity? Think of things you know beginning with tri...like tricycle or triolour or tripod! What is the same about all of these things is that they all begin with tri which means 3. They all have 3 of something.

The Trinity or **God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit** also has 3 of something and this is where it gets a bit difficult to explain. The Trinity does not mean 3 Gods but 3 persons in one God! What that means exactly is a bit of a mystery (meaning something impossible to understand) & difficult to get our heads around BUT what we do understand is that there is:



- God the Father who created the whole world & loves us so much that he sent his only son.
- God the Son or Jesus who was born and lived as a human being over 2000 years ago in Palestine, died on the cross and rose again to new life.
- God the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent to his followers and who is also with us, filling us with his gifts. Some people explain the Holy Spirit by saying that the love between God the Father and Jesus is so strong and so perfect that it is a person & that person is the Holy Spirit!

Long ago when St Patrick was trying to explain the Trinity to the Irish people he used a little plant he found growing in the fields to help him! What was that plant? Yes, the shamrock. When you look at the shamrock you can see that the leaves on it are separate but that they all come from the same stem. If one of the parts wasn't present, it wouldn't be a shamrock. The whole shamrock is God and the individual leaves are the 3 persons of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Lots of places are called after the Holy Trinity? Do you know any?**

