

## **Trinity I – 22.6.14**

We, most of us, have friends who while not unkindly disposed to us, often gently deride our belief. We maybe hear them speaking of the suffering in the world. And they probably ask us for some intimation, some proof, of God, that they might be persuaded to see things differently. In a word they seek to understand in order to believe.

Well we have Augustine on our side – he, Augustine, thought it necessary to believe in order to understand. This is our awareness – a kind of subconscious intuitive awareness – an awareness through the hymns we sing, the prayers we make and the life we live – that our belief makes for understanding.

But, our experience too is that faith can become dim, weak. We know well enough a seeming distance between us and the saints. And this is so. But there is an impetus for us in today's Gospel, in these words, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead". Words which give us pause. And for this in itself, we should be thankful – not many words today give us pause, cause us to think about them. We go from one thing to another as though we haven't an hour to life.

But Moses and the prophets specifically. On reflection they, Moses and the prophets, are not separate from Our Lord. They are all part of the one Gospel – of the good news that God intends from the beginning.

Though on a lower plane, in the Epistle to Hebrews, Moses' mission is comparable to that of Jesus (Hebrews Ch3 vv.1 & 2). And between the lines, the prophets are conscious of Israel's calling to be for the whole world – not for the Jews alone.

Another thought that gives us pause.

And so, our faith, when we examine it, has a wider perspective than we generally reckon. And with this realisation we become a different person. We, as the Gospel for Whitsun has it, are born again – and several things happen.

There is growth. We examine this new life and find we have gifts, gifts that we hadn't realised until we'd grown somewhat. We have a calling which is exciting – but also exacting. We grow amidst others – and see them growing - and with the new realisation, that our growth is that we grow together.

What happens is that newly stimulated we come full circle – seeing Moses and the prophets all over again, realising more fully that we have part with them. Part that is with those whose hearts God has touched.

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