

## Dean's Letter, 16 June 2019

Dear Cathedral family, brothers and sisters in Christ

Today is a wonderful combination of celebrations and special days. It is Youth Day, June 16th, as we remember the start of the immensely significant events of June 1976. It is also Fathers' Day, as we give thanks for our fathers and as we pray for all our fathers and their children. And today in the life of the church is Trinity Sunday – when we acknowledge and worship the Holy Trinity, God in Three Persons, yet one God. The Creed of St Athanasius - written around the 4th or 5th century AD, and tries to define what we understand and believe about the Trinity – can be found in the SAPB (the red prayer book), pages 21-24, and includes the following series of statements: "...we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one: the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal... And yet they are not three eternal, but one eternal..." It is worth slowly and carefully reading through the entire Creed, and reflecting on what we find there.

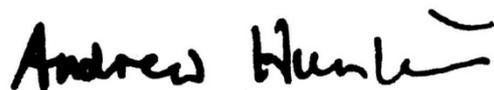
A more concise definition is found in our Catechism, (AAPB page 430). When we speak of God as Trinity, "we mean that we believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, three Persons and yet one God." All quite daunting stuff, yet important. The Trinity is central to our understanding of God and the revelation of God that we have received in His Son Jesus Christ.

Why is all this important? Because God has chosen to reveal himself in particular ways: as creator of all that there is; as the one who redeemed and saved us in His Son Jesus Christ; and as sanctifier and empower, the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father. We work, therefore, with what we have received, and with what has been revealed to us. The Trinity is how God has revealed Himself to us – it is the result of God's revelation to us. We are entering into mystery.

It was an immense privilege to conduct the pre-ordination retreat for those who were ordained on 8th June, and to preach at the ordination service. Among the 19 who were ordained (6 as priests, others as either permanent or transitional deacons) was Professor Geoff Antrobus, who was made deacon and ordained priest in the same service. We congratulate him, and hold him and Margie in our love and prayers as they adjust to this new ministry. And thank you to all who prayed for me and for the retreatants! It was an amazing time, very special indeed.

I was very sorry, this past Wednesday, that circumstances prevented me from attending the funeral of Bishop Patrick Matolengwe, in Graaff Reinet. He was my bishop when I was curate in Edgemead and Bothasig, and ordained me as priest in December 1985. Here in Grahamstown, he conducted our pre-Synod retreat in 2016. The last time I saw him was at the funeral for Mama Sobukwe, in Graaff Reinet. I remember him with gratitude. May he rest in peace.

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.