

**SUNDAY 31ST MAY 2026; TRINITY SUNDAY.
PATRONAL BCP HOLY COMMUNION,
STONEGRAVE.**

Some words from our Epistle written by St Paul to the Corinthians,

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.”

These words ought to be very familiar to you as we often use them to close our meetings. We introduce the words as ‘The Grace’. However, there is one word that is different, instead of saying ‘communion’ we say ‘fellowship’, but to read it in Paul’s letter emphasizes to us that both those words mean pretty much the same thing. Indeed, if you swap them over in other contexts, we may find new meaning. For example, we can call our Eucharist, ‘Holy Fellowship’, and indeed, some Christian denominations refer to what we call Holy Communion, as a fellowship meal, emphasizing that Christian fellowship is the mutual bond that believers share in their relationship with Jesus and with each other.

The Greek term translated as “fellowship” and “communion” is “koinónia,”. This word means partnership, participation, and sharing, far more than casual social interaction. It encompasses deep spiritual unity, active cooperation in worship and service, and joint commitment to living out the truths of Scripture through our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ”.

This reminds us of what we celebrate today here at this wonderful place – the Trinity. In other words, fellowship among believers stems from fellowship with God Himself, who is the source of spiritual unity. The Trinity is the perfect fellowship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit which by the Spirit is given to all believers as a gift of Love, which in turn should be revealed as a loving bond uniting Christians as individuals and groups with each other. Koinonia therefore not only connects individuals with God but also forges fellowship among believers. Paul noted in 1 Corinthians 10:17 that “we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.”, words that are said each time we partake of the Holy Communion. When we share in koinonia, we should therefore recognize and experience a spiritual union that should cause us to put aside personal differences as we enter into and remember the sacrifice of Christ, through the sharing of His body and blood.

The words in our Epistle teach us something about the Trinity and the important gift of koinonia that our triune God gives to us, that we share with the Trinity and with one another, which is the only solution to the long loneliness that we have all known. That forms us into community with each other to form a community built on grace, and love. It is a community made possible because of the love of God, a community that we are blessed to be part of. But being a part is not the end, because it is also a community with a mission, a purpose, not simply to enjoy that koinonia with each other, but also to share it with the world.

Today's gospel reading, speaks of our mission. This reading is the very end of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus gathers his disciples around him one last time, before his ascension into heaven. And when he does, he gives them one last command, known as 'The Great Commission', to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to teach them everything that he has commanded, to welcome them in to the koinonia – the fellowship, the communion we share. That is our mission as a community; to go out, and share God's koinonia wherever we find ourselves, and wherever we are sent, until all the world knows of the koinonia of the Trinity and of the love of God. We are not the community that Jesus created if we are not doing this, all of us, in our own way, with our own gifts, in the places where God calls us. This is the gift, the koinoinia, that gives life to this thing called the church. This community, if it allows this koinonia to flow through it, is a community that is very much alive, and a place where people can grow and thrive. It is a community where grace can be found, because that grace is shared. It is a community where love flows freely, out into the world around it, and it is a community that is truly in fellowship and communion with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Let us all then pray and strive for us to be that community.

So today as we celebrate the Trinity, may *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.”*

Thanks be to God. Amen