



SUNDAY 12 JUNE 2022  
DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

**The Parishes of:** Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington  
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

Trinity Sunday (C) : John 16: 12-15

Gemma has just applied for a new job. She talks of many of the anxieties she carries in putting her best foot forward. Am I being over the top in writing and speaking about what I'm like? Am I in danger of over-selling myself? How detailed do I need to be? In being truthful am I saying enough? The dangers of exaggeration in a competitive field bothers me.

Brought up not to be big-headed, Gemma struggles with how to describe herself. The context defines what's being looked for. What she managed to say in a given number of words had to be short and to the point. I admired her honest struggle.

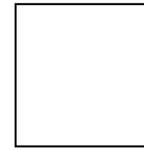
I've sometimes thought that God could have said more about himself. He comes to us through a teaching Church given voice by many different individuals with their own favoured emphases and understandings. Who you've met along the way, what you've heard and read have left you with a profile of our God likely to be partial and possibly lop-sided. Not everyone has grown up with a balanced picture of a God who is a whirlwind of love.

Yet God does speak well of himself. His living body, the Church, at its best has worked up ways of helping us to appreciate how he wants to come across to us. It will always be incomplete. Words usually are. But hopefully we meet sufficient help along the way to form and deepen our relationship with him so that our experience and Church teaching nourish one another.

Our Scriptures - the story of God's words to us through inspired writers - profile a God passionately involved with his people. That involvement shows he's wedded to us so deeply that he came to join us in our humanity and gave his life for the people of the world because we're so loved. In Jesus of Nazareth, described by our Old and New Testament writers, God talks to us about himself - and about us too.

Like a Father beyond our best notions of fathering, he passes on to us in his Son the message of love and forgiveness he has for his fractured and needy people. He goes further, staying with us in Spirit so we're never on our own, enjoying - if that's the word - the company each of the other because that's how he wants us to know him.

God never writes his own biography, but in the writings that teach us about Father, Son and Spirit he has revealed facets of himself to us as the dynamic core of love at the heart of all that is. Blessed be God.



DIOCESE

Hexham & Newcastle

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP

A word from Pope Francis

If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realise that every person is worthy of our giving. Not for their physical appearance, their abilities, their language, their way of thinking, or for any satisfaction that we might receive, but rather because they are God's handiwork, his creation.

God created that person in his image, and he or she reflects something of God's glory. Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives. Jesus offered his precious blood on the cross for that person. Appearances notwithstanding, every person is immensely holy and deserves our love. Consequently, if I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life. It is a wonderful thing to be God's faithful people. We achieve fulfilment when we break down walls and our heart is filled with faces and names!

*The Joy of the Gospel - para 274*