Trinity

Christianity, Judaism and Islam are the three major **monotheistic** religions; that is they are founded on a belief in one God. Christianity however views God through the lens of three 'persons', Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit. The term *person* indicates that the three are of the same substance, not separate, therefore not three Gods. The Council of Nicea (325) formulated the official church teaching on the belief in "one God, the Father almighty… and in one Lord Jesus, the Son of God… and in the Holy Spirit."[1] This belief forms part of the Nicene Creed prayed at Sunday Mass.

Throughout its history, the Church has attempted to portray the mystery of the Trinity through symbols such as shamrocks and triangles which were quite limited. The early Greek Church talked about the Trinity in terms of **perichoresis** which means the *divine dance.* God is imaged as the three persons of the Trinity in a dance of love to which we are invited. This image highlights the nature of God as love, ever-flowing through Father, Son and Spirit and overflowing into our lives and relationships. Trinity is not static entities but dynamic actions of love ever-present in our daily lives and in all of creation.

Triune God

A description of God that recognizes the Trinitarian nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(*SEE Trinity*)

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[1] McBrien, R. (1994). *Catholicism*. North Blackburn, Vic.: CollinsDove, p.316