

I find one of the privileges in being a priest is to walk with a family in grief. While it is obviously profoundly sad, sometimes it can be an experience of incredible intimacy. During the week I had one of those experiences.

It was supporting a family over the death of a father and husband. I was very fortunate to have known the family for several years and was very welcomed amongst them. The man who died was a generously spirited man, as is his wife. I felt at home even though the event was deeply sad. The love that the husband and wife had was infectious. There was an immediate unity that anyone coming into the household experienced. You could be yourself and feel very at home with them. You could be yourself warts and all and feel accepted. I could only think this was a love that reflected the Trinity. There was a unity that was present. Even in the face of death there was a deep belief in a loving God who was calling their husband/father home.

I drove home praying that I could engender in the sacrament of priesthood what I saw this family share in married life. We are all called to be living icons of the Trinity in the unique vocations to which we are called. In doing this we bring about the love of the Trinity – three persons so loving that they can be one God.

Fr Paul O'Donoghue