

Daniel's Reflection for week beginning 4th April

An Irresistible force

Each day in our world beauty is born anew. It rises transformed, through the storms of history. Human beings arise time after time, from situations that seemed doomed. Where all seems to be dead, signs of resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force (EvangeliiGaudium 276)

This is not our usual way of talking about Easter! The Pope here is reminding us that the resurrection of the human one, Jesus, serves only to point to a deeper reality named at the beginning of John's Gospel - that the Word, the eternal Logos, the Christ, is dying and rising at the heart of the cosmos every moment of every day from the beginning of time and into eternity, from the Alpha to the Omega of completed incarnation. Woven into the fabric of the universe, scientists recognise, is the dynamic of dying to give birth to something new, and theologians are now beginning to recognise this process as the natural pattern of Christian Passover and Resurrection.

In what seems like death and destruction and darkness, life is already and always waiting to emerge, transformed into new flowing forms and patterns of energy. There is, within the very essence of creation, cosmologists observe, from the original, spontaneous flowering forth of primal energy, a capacity to generate, die and re-emerge in evermore complex expressions of that same original energy. Within everything that exists, within each person there is, as Pope Francis says, 'an irresistible force' or I 'love energy', as Ilia Deliodescribes our experience of God within the universe, and within every human heart. We are invited to try to understand this as best we can, with the help of our friends, our study and meditation.

'In the midst of darkness something breaks through', the Pope continues. This something is God's self. The divine healing is always wrapped up deep in creation, folded into the contours of nature and into our own mysterious cells. God is in the life of each person. (EG 160, 44) Resurrection is always happening 'in the midst of darkness'-universally and personally. God's Grace is everywhere. It is always readily available to us. God's graciousness around us on every side. It Easter the Earth through its evolution; it urges us through the darker happenings of all days. Pope Benedict emphasised the wider panorama of resurrection at a general audience in April 2011, when he spoke of it as 'the daughter of a new life that is no longer subjected to the termination of time, a life immersed in the eternity of God. With Jesus' resurrection begins a new condition of human being, which illuminates and transforms our daily path, and opens the qualitatively new and different future for all humanity... Resurrection is the force that breaks down barriers and brings new harmony in love' . .

The paradox of death generating new life is, then, the very essence of the observable universe, and it is at the very heart of our Christian faith. We see in the historic events of the passion, death and resurrection of the human person, Jesus, the archetypal symbol of the cosmic Christ signalling the divine presence continually renewing the face of the Earth. In Quantum Physics Diarmuid O'Murchu argues that our task as a 21st-century Christian is to learn to befriend that paradox, and to trust the creative spirit within the miracle of the evolving universe. It is the same Spirit within which we 'live and move and have our being' and which will equip us with the wisdom to engage our world in a more enlightened competitive compassionate and justice imbued way. (P234 235)

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