

Daniel's Reflection for week beginning 19th August -The Catholic-Christian Faith – told as a Love Story

Dear Faithful Reader,

This letter is to introduce a short series of Reflections to follow in the coming weeks in an effort to retell the story of our faith. In the light of recent and radical theological and scientific enlightenment, Church teaching is assuming a renewed emphasis and shape in content, imagery and language. Without, for instance, the deadly weight of the literal understanding of the Adam, Eve and Original Sin myth, a most beautiful spirituality of creation awaits to renew, inspire and fill our hearts. All Catholic Christians carry the responsibility to play a central part in this development of our faith. There are many fascinating resources now available to help you build a solid ground-plan for what will be an exciting time of development for yourself and your children.

Much of this ground-plan will be unfamiliar and challenging territory for you. You will lose your way here and there. But do not give up. Skip on to the next familiar stepping stone in the stream. Something astonishingly new is happening. The first gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, knowledge - and courage! So with the help of our spiritual guides, our saints and scholars of the past and present, and with the holy fire in our hearts and minds, we decide to begin again to read and meditate on our One Love-Story, but now from a radically renewed ground-plan, and in a different and transforming light called God.

Be assured everything in the following Reflections springs from traditional and 'safe' sources – an orthodox theology, scriptural scholarship, mysticism and teachings. For many urgent reasons, particularly the vision of our present Pope, it is all being again explored. Something wonderful is struggling to get free. 'I am about to do a new thing. Now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it?' (Isaiah 43:19). There is now a unique tipping point to which we must lend our weight. A moment of grace is present. It is flowing forth in our consciousness, in all human hearts, in every community, at all levels of life. At this particularly critical time do you really have, in the words of Pope Frances, 'a big heart, open to God'? Read, re-read and take your time to ponder this amazing Love-story!

To help you find your way in this rather unfamiliar territory I have written 'An Astonishing Secret' (Columba Press, Dublin, 2018). In the autumn we will also be sending you an invitation to join our free online video for further meditative viewing and study around these Reflections on the Incarnation.

An extract from Christopher Fry's *A Sleep of Prisoners* seems very relevant: The human heart can go to the lengths of God. Dark and cold we may be, but this is no winter now. The frozen misery Of centuries breaks, cracks, begin to move . . . Thank God our time is now when wrong Comes to face us everywhere, Never to leave us till we take The longest stride of soul men ever took. Affairs are now soul-size.

The enterprise Is exploration into God. It takes So many thousand years to wake, But will you wake, for pity's sake?

Daniel

(From one of Fr Daniel's unpublished articles 2017/Spring 2018)