

## Daniel's reflection for week beginning Easter Sunday, 1st April 2018

### The Irresistible Force of Grace

***'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.'***  
***(Evangelii Gaudium 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, destruction and darkness, life is already and always waiting to emerge, transformed into ever-new flowing forms and patterns of energy. There is, within the very essence of creation, cosmologists observe, from the original, spontaneous flaring forth of primal energy, a capacity to generate, die and re-emerge in ever more complex expressions of that same original energy. Within everything that exists, within each person there is, as Pope Francis says, 'an irresistible force', or 'love-energy', as Delio defines 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, and our study and our meditation.

'In the midst of darkness something breaks through,' the Pope continues. This 'something' is God's saving presence. The divine healing is always wrapped up deep in Creation, folded into the contours of nature, and into our own mysterious selves. 'God is in the life of each person' (EG 160, 44). Resurrection is always happening 'in the midst of darkness' – universally and personally. Grace is everywhere. It is always freely available to us. God's graciousness surrounds us on every side. It 'easters' the earth through its evolution; it urges us through the darker happenings of our days. Pope Benedict XIV emphasised the wider panorama of resurrection at a general audience in April 2011, when he spoke of it as 'the door to 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 a qualitatively new and different future for all humanity ... Resurrection is the force that breaks down barriers and builds new harmony in love.

***(An Astonishing Secret p233)***