

Ninth Set of Reflections - A Most Blessed Epiphany

Just as so many of the world's attitudes towards the powerful Deity that controlled the mysteries of life, death and judgement were radically altered at God's self-revelation in a small, vulnerable baby, so too with our attitudes towards our seemingly vast and often-threatening world full of wars, destruction and human evil. Many observers of the history of human growing hold that, in recent centuries, one photograph alone did more to develop our attitudes towards our earth, than other single event in war and peace – the astronauts' picture (1969) of the world we live on, floating and turning like a small beautiful ball of blue against the blackness of space. This was a moment of immense spirituality for planet Earth. It was a revelation about the stirrings of the human soul – deep, archetypal movements of interdependence, belonging and, therefore, of compassion. In a creation-centred church, this phenomenon of wonder would have been celebrated with intense joy and thanksgiving as a mini-miracle of insight into how God sees us and how delighted God is with our beauty.

Among the many revelations of this most blessed epiphany was the reminder that formal religion is a comparatively recent arrival, no more than 5000 years old, whereas spirituality has spun from matter for billions of years.

We are all only at the margins of discovering this awareness – an awareness that came so naturally to those we call primitive, the native American Indians, the Celts, the Aborigines, the Maoris and so many others. The divine presence and creative energy was felt and acknowledged, not around or outside nature and evolution, but at their centre. (Lost Soul p100)