

### Ninth Set of Reflections - A New Story

The new, unfolding story of the universe overtakes and overwhelms all we ever knew about the planets in general and our earth in particular. Planet Earth is understood to be a living organism, carrying with it all the immensely complex energies for its own gradual evolution and completion. When you listen to people like Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme, as I had the luck to do, you cannot fail to be fired up with their exciting insights and passion. New revelations are reported, almost daily, in the papers. An amazing discovery lies in wait for those who invest even a little time and effort in looking through the physicist's windows of wonder. The New Story, as the current revelation is often called, is profoundly simple even though you may have to grapple a little with concepts such as interdependence, differentiation, interiority, communion and consciousness. This same New Story has the power to enrich and develop our Catholic theology and study of scripture.

Jesus is the one who reveals the love and meaning already filling the womb of the earth from the first moment of creation. He is the one in whom the paradox and breakthrough of evolution make sense. He is the sacrament of the divinity within all matter, the emergence of the holiness of human life, the new consciousness of what was already, but half-hidden, within the miracle of the first being and of the first becoming.

In Jesus' life and death and resurrection, the New Story finds its coherence and credibility. Though chronologically later, it is the incarnation of Jesus that the purpose of God's first creation is forever established. It is against the pattern of the death and resurrection of our Saviour and tremendous lover, that all the deaths and resurrections of the tiniest hearts as well as of the mightiest constellations, acquire an infinite value. And it is in this sense that the eucharist, with its earthy symbols of bread and wine, guarantee and confirm that our world is, indeed, the beautiful body of God. (Lost Soul pp109,111)