

Daniel's Reflection for week beginning 6th May - The World is the First Sacrament

'As Christians we are called to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbours on a global scale. It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the least speck of dust of our planet'. [Laudato Si 9]

These papal words are so exciting. Do you believe them? Does the Institutional Church believe them? They fling wide the doors of our imagination. They reveal the beautiful, interlocked, beating hearts of Creation and Incarnation. They banish the darkness of the flawed doctrines around Adam and Eve and their 'original sin', and introduce the hidden story of a Mother God who created us out of love, and who forever loves us to bits, no matter what. This world is the divine body of God in space and time. So are we all. At birth we are born as pure and shining as we will ever be, as innocent and as close to God as any saint. There is no original sin that needs to be washed away from the baby's soul.

It was when God became human flesh in Jesus that all these delightful truths were fully revealed to us. For some strange reason most of us were never told about them. At that unique moment our lives were radically changed forever. We became aware that we are now called to recognise God in everything that happens, in the circumstances of our daily existence, in all that exists. God is revealed in the midst, the mess and the mystery all around us. The Pope's astonishing 'humble conviction' means there is a huge shift and surge in our perception of creation, in our way of looking at things, in our own inner self-awareness. It profoundly colours the quality of our lives; it influences the manner in which we face each day, each trouble, each new encounter. It infuses a true, graced meaning into our pain; it doubles our joys; it transforms our lives. For all of this gradually to find its home in our hearts, we need to use the creativity and imagination inspired within us by the Holy Spirit...

(Astonishing Secret p47-48)