

Reflection Friday Week 32 – 2023

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis invites us to embrace an ecospirituality of “wonder and awe” by contemplating nature as reflective of the “*inexhaustible riches of God*” (LG 85-86). He writes that the current ecological crisis has grown out of a fundamental disconnect with the natural world. Often distanced from the land and living in a technological world, we struggle to see God in the “*greatness and beauty of created things,*” and marvel with the Psalmist at how “*the heavens proclaim the glory of God.*”

Celtic spirituality saw the whole of creation as God speaking to us through our environment - another bible. Nature reveals the wonder and beauty of the creativity of God. It brings us closer to the fact that being made in the image of God it mirrors the wonder and beauty that we are!

The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good. Anyone who has grown up in the hills or used to sit by the spring to drink, or played outdoors in the neighbourhood square; going back to these places is a chance to recover something of their true selves. (LS no. 84).... It is not enough, however, to think of different species merely as potential “resources” to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves. Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer... convey their message to us!!!