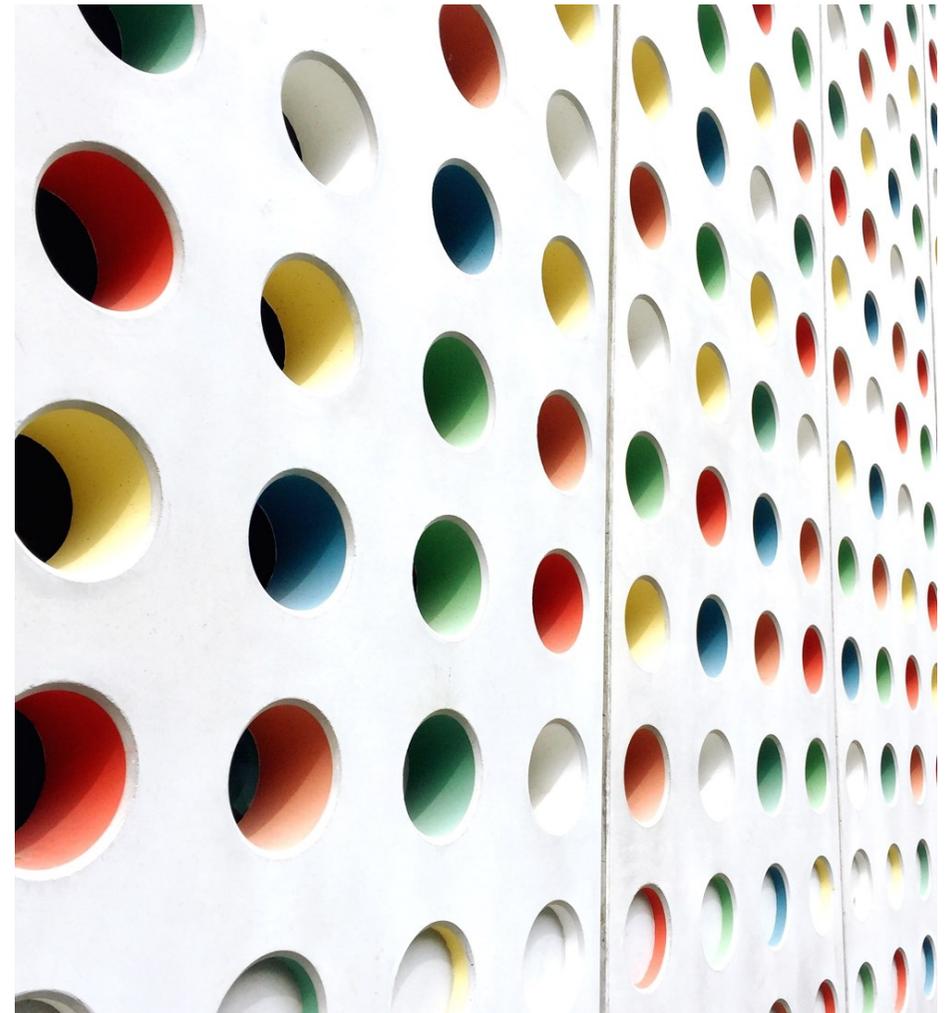


The pope says: 'At the end, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of God' (243), who is even now bringing about the divinization of the world and drawing reality home. At the end God will be all in all, and a transfigured cosmos will sing *Laudato Si'*, 'May you be praised'.

*All the World is Sacred*

# The Magnificence of God

## The Mysticism of *Laudato Si'*





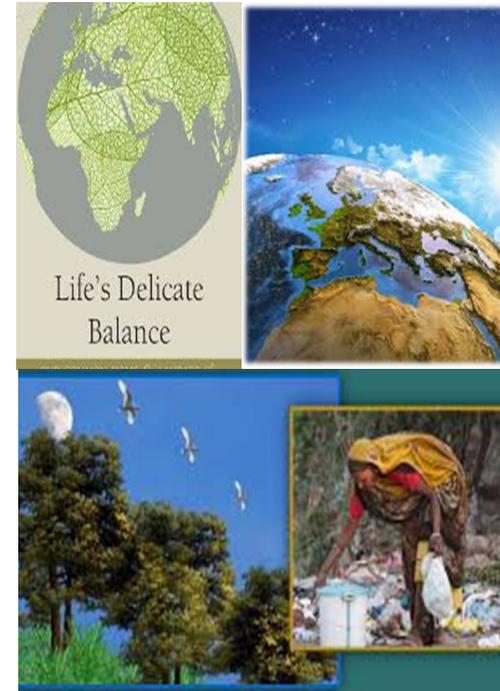
In their search for solutions to climate change most commentators simply leave God out of the picture.

Scientists tend to brush aside the God-question: ‘God is dead, or at best distant, ineffectual, irrelevant: meanwhile there is urgent work to be done’.

But *Laudato Si*’ refers to God one hundred and seventy-eight times: what portrait emerges?

In her novel, *Eat, Pray, Love*, Liz Gilbert is asked what sort of God she believes in. ‘A magnificent God!’ is her answer.

And this is the image of God portrayed in *Laudato Si*’.



The poor of the earth are God’s special concern and must be ours also. We are not threatened with punishment for our ravaging of the divine handiwork, but are challenged radically to reform our lives and collaborate with God in restoring the world to its intended beauty. There is hope for the restoration of all things.

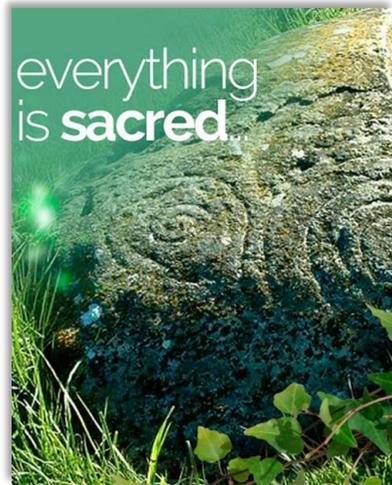
The God of *Laudato Si'* is a trusting God, who provides us with a common home and calls us to help to care for it. Ecological conversion for us means that with God's help we foster universal harmony between God, humankind and creation.



There is no apology for introducing God, no wading through philosophical arguments to justify God's existence. God simply IS, and is presented as compelling and overarching. The God of *Laudato Si'* has a comprehensive and breath-taking project for the cosmos, and can achieve that project, for to God all creation belongs, and so to God all things are possible.



This God is not distant but immeasurably close to us, close to every atom, every moment, every event of our world. God enfolds every least thing with affection, for divine love brims over and covers the earth. All is sacred. God is the electrifying, surging, loving energy within everything.



The cosmos is a divine love-song: if the singer were to stop, nothing would remain but silence. We are caught into this lavish cascade of imaginative loving, and are meant to sing its melody.