

## ***Laudato Si'* Mysticism 4**

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

A fundamental theme of *Laudato Si'* is that everything is interdependent, so wherever we stumble on this interdependence, we are catching on to the work of the Holy Spirit, because the role of the Spirit is to unify and to facilitate creativity. We tend to think that the first Pentecost occurred after Jesus' resurrection; but was the Spirit unemployed until two thousand years ago? No, the first Pentecost took place at the beginning of creation: the Spirit of God, brooding over the formless cosmos, gave it shape and meaning. God made us humans come alive by breathing the Spirit into random dust (Gen 2:7). As the Liturgy says, *'The Spirit of God fills the whole world'*. We live in a world reverberating with the Spirit!

The Pope says:

**'The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities, and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge. The Spirit can be said to possess an infinite creativity' (80). The Spirit is intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways' (238).**

Gerard Manley Hopkins in his poem 'God's Grandeur' captures something of the Spirit's activity: *'...nature is never spent / There lives the dearest freshness deep down things... Because the Holy Ghost over the bent / World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.'* Imagine the Spirit warming the earth as a hen warms her eggs! This maternal care gives hope for our battered and disfigured world. Or imagine the Spirit trying to gain entrance into each heart to warm it with love: this gives hope for humankind, since the Spirit is tenacious and indefatigable. And finally imagine the Spirit trying to find a home in your own heart, so that you may become more alive, resilient and creative!