

***Laudato Si'* Mysticism 3**

DIVINE MEETING PLACES

The perspective of *Laudato Si'* is that every molecule of creation is sacred, and that through each single one God's love is revealed. Creation is God's first self-revelation, and it reveals God's limitless love and affection for us. It is as if God were saying, '*Let's pull out the stops, so everyone on the face of the earth will be able to see our love. All they have to do is to look at what is surrounding them!*' God sees all creation as *good*. When our impaired vision is corrected we come to see the world as a loving gift, and so are drawn towards God, and then towards care of the gift of creation that has been entrusted to our care. This is the goal of *Laudato Si'*. From this 20/20 mystical vision of nature as divine gift, our care for the earth will flow.

But because we are small human beings, we need to start *somewhere* to learn the universal lesson that all is sacred. So the Pope says:

'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 sat by the spring to drink, or played outdoors in the neighbourhood square, knows that going back to such places gives them a chance to recover something of their true selves' (84).

The project *Loving Sister Earth*, in which I am involved, and which you can google, respects this insight and invites you to connect with Ireland's Holy Places. Everywhere in fact is a sacred space, but the places hallowed by our ancestors over so many generations are rich in divine associations. Going to such places gives you 'a chance to recover your true self'. Try it and you will notice a sense of connectedness as you return to your roots!