

## ***Laudato Si'* Mysticism 9**

### **JESUS COMES FROM WITHIN**

Christian belief is that Jesus comes from God: he is divine; God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God. With that firmly in place we can explore the statement that Jesus comes from *within* creation. The Pope says: **'He comes from within, that we might find him in this world of ours' (236).**

Think of a daffodil bulb planted in late autumn. It doesn't look anything spectacular, and it lies passive in cold and dark soil until springtime: then it begins to unfold according to its own mysterious laws of growth. At the right time its blossom appears in all its glory. That blossom was always there potentially, but time must pass and conditions must be right for it to become what its Creator has destined it to be. To achieve its goal it uses the material which is to hand--soil, nutrition, water, sunlight.

Now just as the daffodil blossom was hidden by God in creation from the beginning, we can think also of Jesus as hidden in creation by God from the very start. We were indeed all there at the beginning, scientists tell us, for we are all made from the original stardust. Take the Gospel genealogies of Jesus: they are irrelevant if we think of Jesus as being introduced into the human story from outside and at the last moment. But they are in fact hinting at how Jesus' family tree is rooted in the origin of things. They remind us how, generation after generation, each conception inched his story forward. Not that those involved in these often casual unions knew or cared about what their outcomes might be, but God did. God's very self would eventually emerge, because it was there from the start. This is the mystery woven into creation: Jesus carried its hope from the very beginning. The flower that burst into bloom 2000 years ago was always there, and remains forever. To the contemplative eye, this everyday material world of ours is always serving divine purposes, because it is divinised in Jesus and also in the Eucharist.