

Dear friends,

Inspired by the reading from the book of revelation I have reflected on the nature of revelation itself and what that can teach us in relation to the current situation we find ourselves in. After Julian of Norwich's book, I've called it "Revelations of Divine Love". If you'd like to watch it just click on this link.

https://youtu.be/gOu_j4lfE8w

Alternatively, if you'd prefer to read it just click on this link to my Blog.

<https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2021/01/revelations-of-divine-love.html>



The revelation of divine love at the baptism of Jesus was intensely relational and personal. As it is for us too. In John's famous prologue he says that our re-birth makes us children of God, and you never have a more constant personal link ever than with your mother or Father.

We are connected to our biological parents through our DNA or we speak colloquially of "blood relations" a term which naturally limits our connections to those within our family structures but through the Spirit we are connected through all the Spirit of Christ to God so our connections are limitless.

Live streaming of Sunday's worship! (Tomorrow)

The service from All Saints East Budleigh at 9.30am on Sunday morning will be live-streamed so if you feel unable to join us in person but would like to join us that way just click on this link at that time. <https://app.faith.online/p/events/UI5ZFc35w>

The Song of songs

Is a remarkable book that has always been a part of the Hebrew Bible yet God is never mentioned in the entire book, nor is prayer, worship or piety making it unique in the Bible. So why is it part of the Bible? Well, arguments rage about that kind of question but my best guess is that it is about human love, desire and sexuality which are central to understanding our full humanity. God created us in all our complexity and emotions and we were created Very good don't forget. The poetry is sublime and I chose these two verses as an example.

⁶ Set me as a seal upon your heart,
As a seal upon your arm;
For love *is* as strong as death,
Jealousy *as* [a]cruel as [b]the grave;
Its flames *are* flames of fire,
[c]A most vehement flame.

⁷ Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor can the floods drown it.
If a man would give for love
All the wealth of his house,
It would be utterly despised.

The heart of Prayer

St. Therese of Lisieux contends is a desire for union.

"Draw me, we will run..."

To ask to be drawn is to will intimate union with the object which holds the heart captive. If fire and iron were gifted with reason, and that the latter said to the fire: "Draw me," would not this prove that it desired to become identified with the fire even so far as to share its substance? Well, that is exactly my prayer. I beg of Jesus to draw me into the flames of His Love, to unite me so closely to Himself that He may live and act in me. I feel that the more the fire

of love inflames my heart, the more I shall say: "Draw me," the more also will the souls who draw near to mine run swiftly in the fragrant odors of the Well-Beloved.

Love and peace,
Martin

Please note my new email address is vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk