

"thin places": sacred spaces

A pressure of significance

*From earliest childhood, I was always conscious of a strong, sometimes frightening, sometime deeply necessary current of sheer meaning in things and people, **a pressure of significance** that only rarely carried over into what people commonly said. The world was resonant and radiant with meanings and, knowing this, how could I speak as if no-one of it mattered, or leave it out the way people seemed to do?*

Les Murray

*There is only one non-negotiable,
and that is we only have one world - this one-
and it is here and nowhere else we will find God.*

Paul Collins

*Everything that meets our gaze is a parable
veiling and unveiling its higher meaning.*

Hugo Rahner

*If we lose the splendour of the natural world,
we lose our true sense of the divine.*

Thomas Berry

Philip Carter is a retired Anglican Priest. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD). He ran the Julian Centre in Adelaide, an independent and ecumenical centre for spirituality, from 1997-2009.

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Go for a walk.

Use some or all of your sense - sight, sound, taste, touch and smell.

Relax. Go slow.

Notice what you carry with you - in your body, in your mind, and in your heart - and see if you can let go of these things, ie., name them, give them some space, and put a distance between them and you.

Live in the present. Pay attention. Let be what is - let the sky, the sounds, a tree or a rock be - and let them speak to you.

Trust any moment that draws you (as distinct from being driven). Savour this time.

*For whenever an event, a situation, a person seizes our attention,
then we first acknowledge that it is God-in-that-event,
God-in-that-person, nodding to us and recruiting
the God-ward-ness-in-me for a response.*

Hedley Beare

[The vision of God is] never truly to be satisfied in the desire to see him. But one must always, by looking at what s/he can see, rekindle the desire to see more.

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