

AN INCONCEIVABLE GOD

*How great is your name, O Lord our God,
Through all the earth. (Psalm 8)*

In recent weeks I have heard different people make various remarks such as, I am a humanist; I am an atheist; I do not believe in God; I am not religious. I know it is not easy to believe in God. He is inconceivable. Beyond human comprehension. Fortunately, I was brought up to believe and have continued to do so all my life but there was a time when I thought I was losing my faith. I read the words of the psalm,

*When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
The moon and the stars which you arranged,*

and I began to think of the vastness of the Universe and I could not imagine the immensity of it. I began to wonder how there could be a being so great as to be able to create such a thing. I confessed my thoughts to a priest and I was advised that I was not losing my faith but beginning to appreciate the greatness of God. The universe does indeed seem to be infinite for man has developed telescopes that can see further and further and have found stars that we did not know existed. Then how did the universe begin, it could not create itself? There must be a creator, yet Earth is but a tiny speck of dust in this vast universe. The psalm continues,

*What is man that you should keep him in mind,
Mortal man that you care for him?*

*Yet you have made him little less than a god;
With glory and honour you crowned him,
Gave him power over the work of your hand,
put all things under his feet*

I realised that it is nothing to do with size for God is the creator and loves all that he has created even the things that are so much smaller than we are, so small that we cannot see them with the naked eye. However, he gave mankind special gifts. He gave us all we needed to live, no more, no less. He gave us intelligence and the ability to study and learn about his creation but he gave us one other important gift, the right to choose. To choose to live as he wants us to live or go our own way. Alas, man chose to go his own way and our world became corrupted. Sin entered our world through pride and greed. When we see what is happening in our world today, we can see how corrupted our world has become. But we can choose not to be part of that corruption. To know and love God we need humility. We need to recognise our place in God's creation and to know our place in this society. Humility is not submitting to all the corruption around us but standing firm against it. Not taking from but giving to those around us. Not hating but loving our neighbours. I wish that world leaders would realise that war cannot solve problems.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a Jubilee year and urges us to turn to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus and implore his help. In my parent's house, there was a statue of the Sacred Heart in a prominent position for all to see. My mother taught us short prayers to say. Each day, as I come in from the car park through the porch door, there in front of me is the parish's lovely statue and I look up at it and pray those same prayers,

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I implore,
Make me love you more and more.

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
Make my heart like unto thine.