

New Year 2026

All things were made through him.

All things were made through him.

Pope Francis issued an encyclical *Laudato si*. A written piece of theology that amazingly is being seen as a source of authority by the secular world. The words of this man of faith discussed on radio four.

Pope Francis, followed by Pope Leo have joined the chorus of voices that call us to respect creation.

That see the living presence of God in the creative miracle of our physical world.

Secular society would attempt to separate faith from day to day detail.

In the same way we for centuries we have tended to separate faith from the day to day interaction of the natural world

How crazy when you consider

All things were made through him

What is more

All is gift

All is gift

Walk with me up to Darwen tower. Walk past the now grassed over scars of the bottle coal mines, and quarry that are scattered around the moors. Notice how the land is claimed back by the new growth, until it deceives the eyes of the casual visitor. You now look above the towns of Preston and Chorley, Even Blackpool. On a clear day these places are within the context of a landscape which takes in the sea, even the blue hills of the Lake District. In places the imprint of humanity's progress in domination is clearly seen. Fields in patterns, roads cutting through the patchwork of green.

Humanity attempting to dominate

Without the humility of faith

Without the vision to see all is gift

Only when we have begun to choke upon our corruption of earth and sky

Have we begun to work with nature

Have we begun to work with the creator

All things were made through him.

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I was recently patronised by well-meaning folk about the pension I now receive.

“You worked hard all your life”

“You deserve that money”

I deserve nothing.

Naked I came into this world and naked I shall leave it.

All is gift

All is gift

Born as I was too hard working immigrant parents, I was fed aspiration and pride as a child. Educated in a catholic school with dedicated teachers. Trained for priesthood by college and experience. Finding myself in different parts of the world, different cultures.

Finding myself now sharing a vocation which I do in fact love. Indeed would still love after the illusion of retirement.

I deserve nothing

All is gift

All is gift

Each day I begin to work within the circumstances that are there

Each day I begin again to work with the creator

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I grow older. You grow older. We experience ill health. Mental anxiety.

Rarely do we emerge from the complacency of the ordinary

Rarely are we liberated from the frustrations of fallen mind and body.

And yet

And yet

The cancer victim recovers from the operation and thanks God for those extra years of love.

The split second of the car accident on occasion reveals what really matters

The birth of the new born child reintroduces wonder

All is gift

All is gift

We deserve nothing

What health we have is to be used to celebrate the life we are given.

What health you have here and now is given

To work with the creator

All things were made through him

All things were made through

You shall die and so shall I

And all that shall be remembered of us is love

And all

All is gift