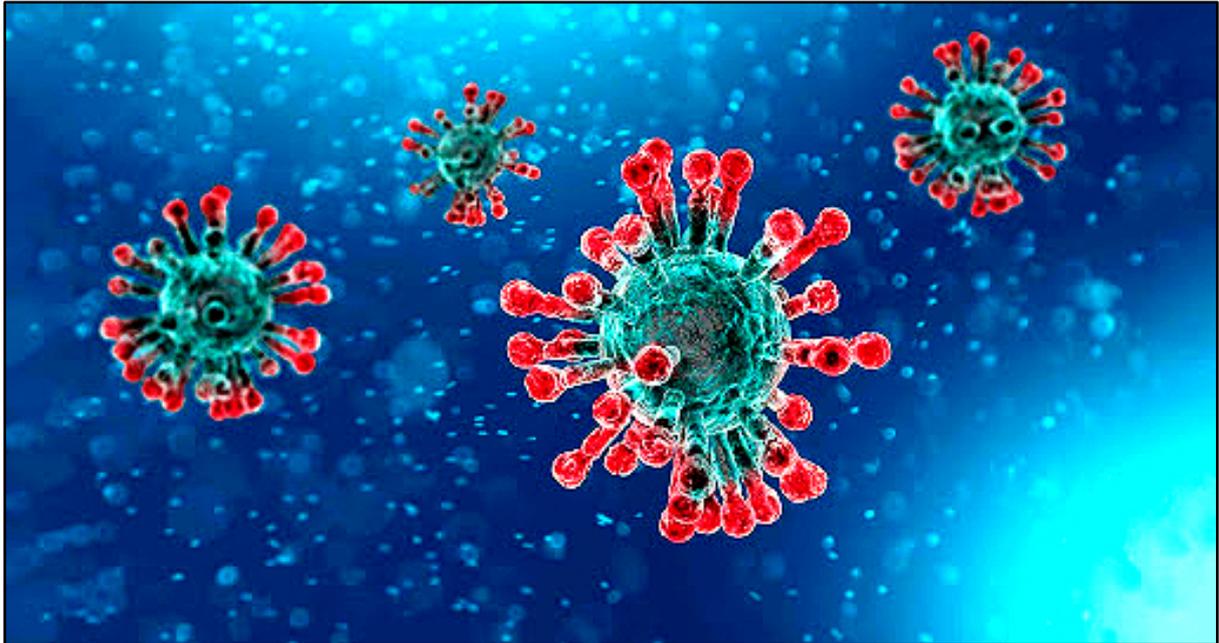


THE GREAT BECOMING

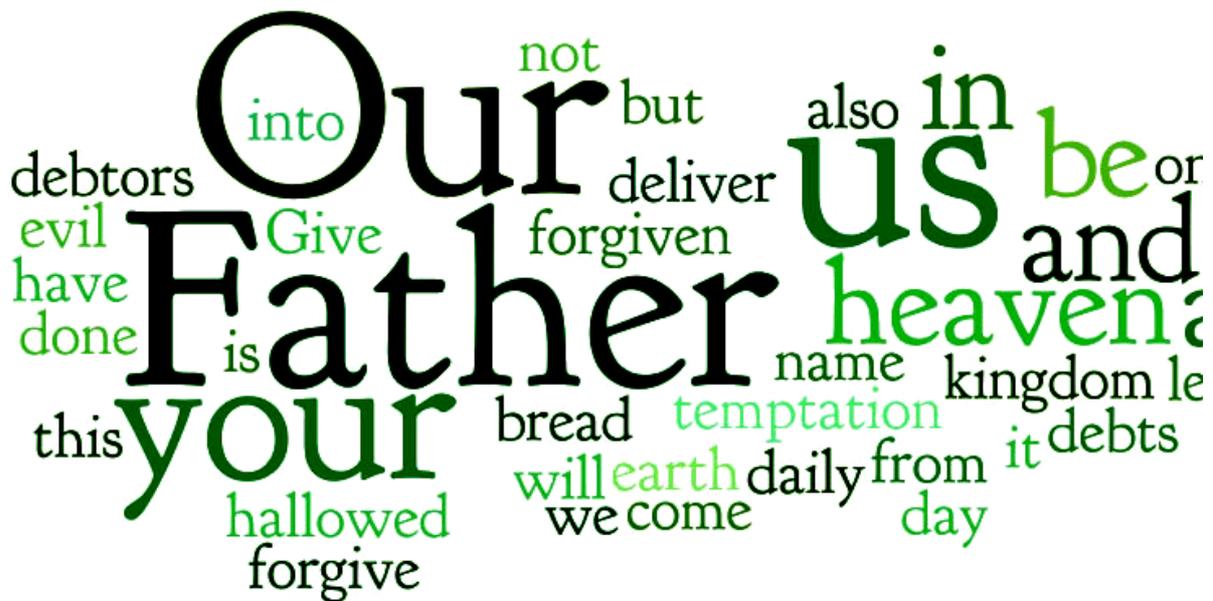
I begin this reflection as Melbourne is reverting to stage 3 lockdown due to the increasing number of Covid-19 infections. Some people will welcome the change of pace: more time with family, quieter streets as less people travel, time for walking or gardening or making bread, or taking up a new craft. For many others, restrictions bring increased anxiety and stress in the uncertainties consequent on this pandemic.



For CEN members, our evolutionary consciousness mission becomes more critical in the face of these new realities. While the efforts to contain Covid-19 infections tend to shrink our world to our local areas, states or countries, we are called to enlarge our vision, to embrace the world, to embrace the Mystery at the heart of all that is, of all that is becoming, the Mystery drawing all toward the fullest realisation of itself. In some mysterious way, Covid-19 has a role in this becoming. I do not understand what this role is. Perhaps some day in the future, people may be able to see it in the hindsight of history.

The entire creation, as we know, is evolving into the potential implanted in it from its very beginning. The evolutionary process took on a fresh immediacy for me recently, when I was reflecting on the prayer taught by Jesus, the Our Father (Mt. 6: 9-13). As I sometimes do, I looked up the Greek original. I don't know Greek, but an interlinear version gives me the literal meaning of the Greek words, sometimes using several English words to convey the nuances of a particular word. When I came to the phrase, *Thy will be done*, I noticed there is no word for *done* in the Greek. But for *be* it gave the following: *let-be-being-become*. I repeated the phrase a number of times, *let-be-being-become*, playing with the words. *Let be* echoes the opening chapter of Genesis. (When I looked up an interlinear version of the Hebrew, I noticed this creation story is written in the continuous present tense, *it is becoming light....*). From the Creator's "*let-be*",

come forth many *beings* (noun), and by *being* (verb) all *beings* are *becoming*. The full potential of what creation has become and continues to become on its evolutionary journey, is implicitly there from the beginning of creation. I like to think of it as “the DNA of our DNA”. Just as DNA holds the genetic code holding the information an organism needs to develop, live and reproduce, so the evolutionary Cosmos holds the dynamic “code”, the guiding impulse, urging it, and each part of it, to realise what is potentially there from the beginning.



This being so, the phrase *Thy will be (done)*, is the prayer that God’s desire, implanted in creation from the very beginning, and present in each of us, will continue to unfold in its journey of becoming. And, as Teilhard taught, in the convergence of individual creatures/energies/presences, creation brings forth new creation, a newness that is potentially there from the beginning, but can only be realised as disparate entities come together in oneness.

With the emergence of reflective consciousness in human beings, we are privileged to play a conscious, active role in the direction of creation’s becoming. We also have the capacity to deflect creation’s becoming to our own ends, instead of to the flourishing of the whole. This is the root of what we call *sin*. It is the cause of much suffering in the world. Yet we can never extinguish the direction of creation’s becoming. Like a GPS that re-directs us when we take a wrong turn, God’s desire for creation’s fulfilment continually draws us back on track.

In our daily contemplative time, we are making space for deep listening, discerning the movement of creative *becoming* deep in our hearts and deep in existence itself. I like to see it as a deep listening to the heart-beat of the Cosmos, tuning-in beyond myself, beyond time, into the ancient and ever-new memory in the Cosmic heart-beat, which embraces our entire story, from the original flaring forth of God’s BE (which physicists call the big bang), to the astonishing diversity that has unfolded until now, and all that is yet to become. Amazingly, every breath you and I take is part of that

becoming. Amazingly, as we share our contemplative time, conscious of the great Mystery in which we participate, we contribute to the evolution of our collective consciousness of the deep purpose of God for creation's becoming. What a privileged mission!

I conclude this reflection with a paraphrase of our much-loved prayer:



*O Divine Mystery we call by many names,
you are deep within us
and all around us.
May your name be held sacred
in our hearts and in all creation.
May your empowering love
be the energy enlivening all that is,
bringing the universe and its inhabitants
into your unity and harmony.
Help us this day to provide each other
with our daily bread.
Forgive us our wrongs
as we forgive those who wrong us.
Do not allow us to be tested beyond our capacity
but free us from the powers of evil
within us and in the world.
For you are the Love that gathers all as one,
now and forever.
And so may it be.*

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