

Our Human Sacred Story

11 Video Presentations by Diarmuid O'Murchu via Zoom

Diarmuid O'Murchu, a member of the Sacred Heart Missionary Order, and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin Ireland, is a social psychologist most of whose working life has been in social ministry, predominantly in London, UK.



You are invited to join us on Zoom to follow this new course produced by Diarmuid O'Murchu of 11 video presentations. Diarmuid leads us through *Our Human Sacred Story* through to an understanding of how to integrate our enlarged spiritual horizons with our inherited religious beliefs, and how to ground spirituality in daily experience; a desired integration sought by many people in our time.

There are two opportunities to take part:

1. Friday Morning Group - Session 1: 15th January 11am
2. Wednesday Evening Group - Session 1: 20th January 7pm

To Register on the course and receive the Zoom Invitation Links please Email : paulinepasassoc@btinternet.com

1. Our Human Sacred Story: Enlarged Horizons

Today, we are much more aware of the large cosmic story of 13.7 billion years and we seek to integrate it with our faith and theology. However we lack a corresponding human story to match the spiritual elegance of our cosmic and planetary stories. In this presentation I introduce our sacred human story of some seven million years.

2 Our Human Sacred Story Divine Creativity at Work

When we begin to embrace and live out of our true, God-given human story of seven million years we encounter several examples, not of primitive savages of a bygone age, but a species which, time and again, manifest some incredible creative potentials, with compelling evidence that we are first and foremost the beneficiaries of an original blessing and not the victims of an original sin.

3 Incarnation - The Embodied Presence of the Great Spirit

In mainline Christian theology, the notion of Incarnation is reserved almost exclusively to the historical Jesus. However, it also carries a more foundational significance around the notion of embodiment, the God who creates through all the embodied expressions of creation from the universe down to the tiny bacteria. In this context Incarnation does not begin with Jesus, but with the creative Spirit, which in this presentation I explore through the indigenous concept of the Great Spirit.

4. Incarnation: Our Enlarged Christian Narrative

Incarnation primarily denotes embodiment, which requires us to revision the Christian notion of Incarnation, not merely in terms of Jesus and the Judaeo-Christian context but within the enlarged context of creation at large .

5 The Christian Archetype of the Kingdom of God

Over the centuries Christianity has focussed primarily on Jesus as an archetypal patriarchal hero, largely based on the patriarchal values of both ancient Roman and Greek cultures. Instead we need to reclaim the central relational and communal context out of which Jesus lived and ministered. In the Gospels it is named as the Kingdom of God, for which I am suggesting a renaming of the Companionship of Empowerment.

6 Adult Faith Development in the 21st Century

Over the centuries Christianity, in conjunction with other major religions, has upheld docile childlike obedience as a primary virtue, and a key feature of authentic discipleship. Today, growing numbers of Christians yearn for a more adult way of co-discipleship, accompanying the adult Jesus serving an adult God.

7 The Wisdom of the Parables

Throughout the 20th century the parables have been studied in great depth and today are viewed as highly complex, subversive stories, challenging Christians into becoming more active in building a world of justice, love, empowerment, and liberation for all people and for the living earth itself.

8 Divine Creativity in the Power of Paradox

How to deal meaningfully with suffering in the world, and particularly among humans, has been a major concern of all religion, Christianity included. Today millions of Christians appeal to the crucified Jesus to rid the world of meaningless suffering. In this presentation, I adopt a larger context to review the role and meaning of suffering within creation at large. In turn, this requires of us a new spiritual and theological context to understand the notions of redemption and salvation in our Christian faith .

9 Beyond Catholicism's Dark Shadow

The Council of Trent holds an important place in Catholic history laying the foundations for the popular understanding of Catholicism today. However the vision of Trent also includes a form of imperial clericalism which has rarely been named and never confronted. This inherited baggage casts a dark shadow over our Catholic faith and identity, one that requires a substantial re-evaluation of what Christian discipleship means in the Catholic church today .

10. Evolutionary Vision for our time

Evolution has become a central feature of spirituality and theology in the 21st century. Why this has happened, and its implications for our time, is the subject material of this presentation

11 Integral Spirituality for the 21st Century

The distinction between religion and spirituality has been a subject of intense research throughout the closing decades of the 20th century. How to integrate our enlarged spiritual horizons with our inherited religious beliefs, and how to ground spirituality in daily experience, is the desired integration sought by many people in our time.