



BOOKS ON FRANCISCAN THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY

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REALISING THE SACRED

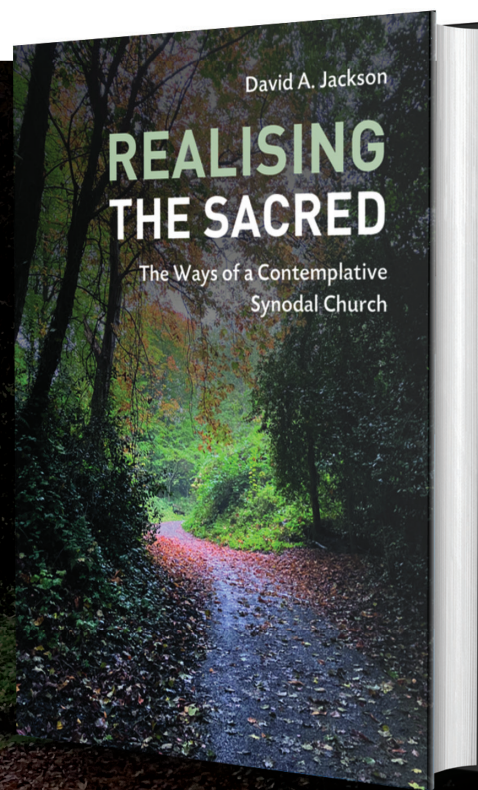
In 1980 Eric Doyle OFM wrote: 'The greatest challenge to organised religion in the western world now is whether it can guide individuals along the paths of their own inner depths and show how the riches in those depths can be recognised, accepted and put at the service of all creation and closely related to this, whether it can teach people to commune with God and nature.' This work seeks to address this challenge by encouraging all Christians to embrace the contemplative practice of silent prayer as the basis for all worship, life and mission of the Church, consciously and with full-hearted intent.

David Jackson has written a timely book with two major features: the significance of synodality in the Catholic Church, and the underpinnings of the mystical tradition both past and present as the means of experiencing the Spirit of God at work – a task for all the baptised – in a process of ongoing contemplation.

Fr Paul Lyons, former director of human and psychological development

David Jackson encourages the reader to face up to all the wonderful challenges as we become Church today, by going to the heart of the matter. His theme: the People of God are self-consciously waking up to the notion that they are on a contemplative journey into new territory, the contours of which are only just beginning to emerge.

Fr Nicholas Postlethwaite CP



REALISING THE SACRED

Realising the Sacred is the result of years of reflection by an older sage who loves the Church. He roots the Synodal approach of Pope Francis in the person of Jesus and his relationship with the Father. David Jackson's imaginative, sometimes profound and occasionally provocative outcomes of taking Synodality seriously are a real challenge to everyone in the Church. His re-imagining of worship, community building and mission are a breath of fresh air, urging us all to become more open to the inclusiveness, compassion and mercy of the Lord. This is a timely short book which will certainly stimulate the thinking and encourage the hoping of anyone who reads it.

Fr Jim O'Keefe, Former Director of Ushaw College

David Jackson was born in Bradford 1938. After ordination in 1964, he studied at Cambridge and Lancaster universities and undertook seminary teaching. He married in 1973 and began a career in Religious Education, subsequently becoming inspector for RE. In 1985 he became the first Coordinator of the Bradford Interfaith Education Centre. From 2000-2011 David was the Leeds diocesan Coordinator for Interreligious Relations and a member of the CBCEW Committee for Other Religions. In 2020 he 'graduated' as a Laudato 'Si animator; he also served on the diocesan Synodal Steering Group. He has been increasingly drawn into the practice of contemplative prayer.

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