


St Francis first introduced the tradition of the nativity scene. It brought into focus for him the Light that he saw in the earth and in every creature, the light of 'Brother Sun' and 'Sister Moon' as he called them in his Canticle of the Sun... (Newell, 2014, p. 37).

In contemplating the nativity scenes which appear in churches, homes and sometimes public places during Advent, do we see what St Francis saw – the sacredness of every created being? And if we see this then we need to work for a '...rebirthing of the sacred within us as nations, as religious traditions, as communities and families, we need to move into relationship with those who are considered unlike us. From this new birth emerges' (Newell, 2014, p.98).

The Advent Challenge

*Pause for
Reflection*

*How can you work
for a more peaceful
and inclusive
world?*



*Like the artist who looks at the marble and sees the hidden angel.
Like the farmer who looks at his winter fields
and sees the waving harvest...
You are, thus, the revealers, the midwives of the presence of God
already hidden in ... (the world)*

(O'Leary, 2017, p.144)