

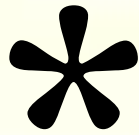
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The Sky at Night



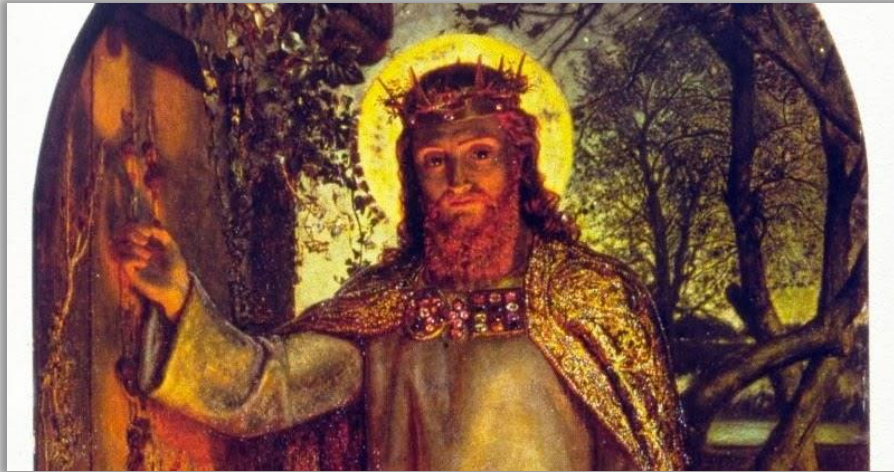


There are Giants in the Sky...

If any of you have been up in the hours just before dawn – perhaps cramming in a last bit of revision before the progress tests or heading out for a bit of strength and conditioning, you may have been aware of two particularly bright lights in the sky. Venus and Jupiter are currently in conjunction and remarkably visible to the naked eye.

I always find that there is something humbling and reassuring about looking upward at night; sometimes it's good to be reminded not only of how small and perhaps insignificant we are – but also of the spectacular grandeur of the universe we inhabit. For millennia, humans have tried to find meaning in those pinpricks of light that stare back at us out of the ink-black blanket. We have named stars, told stories about them transformed them into deities and even determined our futures based on their patterns of movement.

This week's edition, then, is dedicated to the world above our heads and the ideas and personalities this week are connected by a fascination with the stellar world which reminds us always to ask the big questions of existence.



Hunt's famous painting of Christ standing and knocking at the door to the hearts of men is now housed in Keble College Chapel Oxford and usually open to the public. According to popular myth, Hunt became obsessed with finding the right 'dawn light' to form the backdrop of 'The Light of the World' and finally gained his inspiration from a visit to Bethlehem. Whatever the truth of the matter, the sky in his painting is surprisingly evocative and tinged with a sense of excitement and anticipation.



SP1722 South African Star Myths

Centuries of cultural bias have caused us to be more familiar with the approaches of some civilisations than others. Click [here](#) to read about the fascinating star-myth culture of South Africa.

SP1723 Peggy Whitson

Told that she was a daydreamer who should 'settle down', Peggy's determination led her to become the first female astronaut to perform a space-walk. Click [here](#) to find out more about her inspirational story.



SP1724 Robert Frost

A prolific American poet writing in the first half of the twentieth century, Frost was known for his wonderful rural descriptions and poignant imagery. Click [here](#) to read his powerful take on the stars.

