

# Folio One

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# Folio One

## *Poems 1-20*

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- 18 The People of the Spirit
- 19 Being Jesus
- 20 The Forgiveness of Sin

*\* meant to be sung*

## True to Its Nature<sup>1</sup>

*That crumpled piece of paper –  
... How jagged it appears :  
Born in complexity  
Complicated chemistry,  
Inorganic industry  
It refuses ...  
To stay crushed!*

*Cast aside, rejected,  
It opens up again  
To assert its inward-nature  
... Of the pine tree it was before:  
To again stand tall,  
To unfold itself towards the sun  
... To drink the light!  
To rise to life!*

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<sup>1</sup> This was my first ever poem composed as a 16 year old student in Year 11, Christian Brothers' College, Warwick

## Christ Our Lord Has Come<sup>2</sup> \*

*Christ our Lord, has come  
The king of lowliness,  
Glory be to God on high  
And peace on earth to men.  
Pouring forth His being  
Into the hearts of men,  
We now receive Christ's fullness,  
As new-born sons of God.*

*Refrain*      *O! Christ our Lord, Christ our Lord,  
Christ our Lord is come!  
O what peace and joyfulness  
Have come through Mary's Son!  
O! Christ our Lord, Christ our Lord,  
Christ our Lord is come!  
Obeying now the Father's will ...  
Our hearts and lives He's won!*

*Budding forth as man  
The fruit of Mary's womb,  
Christ spreads forth His love divine  
Upon the tree of life.  
Just as we live and grow,  
Through Christ, in Mary's womb,  
We hope to die and rise in Christ,  
Born glorious from the tomb!*

*Refrain*

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<sup>2</sup> Composed in Warwick in 1961 as an 18 year old just before I left home for the Juniorate at Strathfield

\* Meant to be sung. Tune: *Jingle Bells*

<sup>3</sup>*As Head, Christ came to birth,  
From the altar of the cross;  
The Church's birth into the world  
Came forth from Christ's own side.  
Christ first to Mary gave,  
His flesh and blood divine  
So now in Mary we all strive  
To join with Christ our Head.*

*Refrain*

*To do, to teach, to die ...  
To reveal His Father's love,  
Christ came forth as King divine  
As Saviour, Priest and Lord!  
We learn to love in Christ  
— The Father's Word of Praise —  
While in the Spirit of Them both,  
We love with His own love!*

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<sup>3</sup> Stanzas 3 and 4 were added in 1969 when the author was 25

## Companionship with You <sup>4</sup>

*Dear Jesus,  
Give me an appetite  
For companionship with You  
And your Blessed Mother.  
Let me hunger for You  
– To eat and drink Your Divine Body and Blood!  
Let them flower into sanctity,  
Within me ... every day.*

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<sup>4</sup> Composed as a 20 year old in 1964 in the Novitiate at Minto

## Imitating You in Every Way<sup>5</sup>

*Jesus, I want to hero-worship You –  
Imitate You in every way,  
Love as you love,  
Pray as You pray,  
Follow Your lead regardless,  
Relate and speak like You,  
Act as You act.*

*Yes, Jesus, You are my hero!  
I want to be in Your Presence always –  
Either in Your sacramental Presence  
Or Your Presence in the lives of others.  
Help me yearn for You,  
When, by sin or mediocrity,  
I selfishly turn my back on You,  
Or even crucify You!*

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<sup>5</sup> Written at Minto Novitiate, Sydney 1964

## **Cherish Me When I Suffer**<sup>6</sup>

*Dear Mother Mary,  
Keep me in close contact with Jesus  
... Even as He gives His cross  
To those who love.  
Mary, because You are a mirror of Jesus  
In your own suffering,  
Cherish me when I suffer.  
Let me never drink of the waters of the world;  
But, in your care of me,  
Nurture my vocation.*

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<sup>6</sup> Written in Mulgoa Second Novitiate 1965



## A Single Human Cell <sup>7</sup>

*Realize afresh*

*That God became flesh:*

*You, my dearest Jesus*

*Humbling Yourself*

*To the confines*

*Of a single*

*Human*

*Cell*

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<sup>7</sup> Written at Mulgoa Second Novitiate 1965

## A Celibate's Love<sup>8</sup>

*Just as  
Christ bodies God for us,  
And we reach out to touch, to embrace  
The God we love  
... So the vowed celibate  
Embodies a sensitive, tender love,  
That is not exclusive,  
But includes all  
... Bodying God to All*

*Thus by universalizing it,  
Vowed celibacy enhances one's sexuality.  
Both are at the service of our personality  
Not vice versa;  
Otherwise, the person becomes  
A victim of part of himself.*

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<sup>8</sup> Written at Mulgoa Second Novitiate 1965

## The Father Lives His Life in Us<sup>9</sup>

*When the Father shares His Life,  
He remains the owner of it;  
We share it with Him:  
He lives it in us,  
We live it in Him  
... In His Beloved Son!*

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<sup>9</sup> Written at Mulgoa Second Novitiate 1965

## Grace Builds on Nature<sup>10</sup>

*Grace builds on nature –  
Not to cure, but to enhance,  
Not to remake, but to uplift,  
... To grace our nature,  
To enlighten our humanity  
With the Light of divinity.*

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<sup>10</sup> Written at Mulgoa Second Novitiate 1965

## The Beauty of Becoming<sup>11</sup>

*God loves growth;  
God loves time;  
God loves the beauty of becoming.  
Not for us to short-circuit  
This process of becoming:  
God's face is revealed  
In growth's evolution!  
God's is the empowering!  
God's, the glory!*

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<sup>11</sup> Written in Second Novitiate 1965

## The Earthly Soil of My Life <sup>12</sup>

*Father,  
May Yours and Jesus' Spirit of Love  
Be 'The Praise of Your Glory' <sup>13</sup>  
Within me.*

*Jesus,  
May Your beloved Mother lead me  
To let Your Presence blossom  
In the earthly soil  
Of my life.*

*Spirit,  
Move our hearts so that, together,  
We may thirst for that love  
Which unites us perfectly,  
The love of a Blessed Son.*

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<sup>12</sup> Written at Strathfield Sydney in teacher training 1966

<sup>13</sup> This wonderful phrase comes from my reading of a book on Sister Elizabeth of the Trinity (Philipon), now Blessed Elizabeth. Eph 1:14

## In Heartbeat Closeness<sup>14</sup>

*The Christian's desire ought to be  
To experience God's love  
Now  
Within the present moment,  
To rest in humility and simplicity  
... Resting on Jesus' breast  
– In the intimacy of Holy Communion –  
In simple affection,  
In heartbeat closeness  
To the source of all vitality and love.*

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<sup>14</sup> Written at Strathfield Sydney in teacher training 1966

## Loving Life into Those We Love<sup>15</sup>

*To be chaste as a vowed celibate,  
Implies a loving acceptance of one's own sexuality,  
And a willingness to nurture its growth  
– So as to love life  
Into those  
We are CALLED to love virginally;  
And yes! To love them with warmth and affection,  
Such that our touch  
Is not a taking  
... But a giving one.*

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<sup>15</sup> Written at Strathfield Sydney in teacher training 1966



## Wedding Us to Community<sup>16</sup>

*The Spirit longs  
To wed us to community:  
We need to allow the Spirit  
To form us  
Into the living tissue of community  
– Both to welcome the attentiveness of others,  
And to draw others to our hearts.*

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<sup>16</sup> Written at Burwood community during first pastoral ministry there 1967

## The Father's Self Image, Come Alive<sup>17</sup>

*God the Father's self imagery*  
*... Of His wondrous goodness, knowledge and love ...*  
*Is so perfect, it is vibrant with life itself:*  
*Alive with life*  
*In the very person of a Beloved Son!*  
*Indeed, the Eternal Son is the perfect image,*  
*The full expression of the Father's glory,*  
*'The exact representation of the Father's being'<sup>18</sup>*  
*... Hiddenly here, on earth,*  
*But revealed, in full glory, eternally.*

*Jesus is the human face of the Father in the world*  
*– 'Whoever sees me, sees the Father';<sup>19</sup>*  
*He is the full expression of His Father's love in the world,*  
*So that, when we meet Jesus, we meet the Father loving us.*  
*For us,*  
*Jesus is the Way to the Father,*  
*The complete Truth about the Father,*  
*And the life of the Father*  
*– Offered to us and 'given for you'.<sup>20</sup>*  
*Indeed, Jesus is the full reality of the Father*  
*Alive in the world!*  
*... Father and Son differing only in personality.*

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<sup>17</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College Yeppoon, 1971

<sup>18</sup> Heb 1: 3

<sup>19</sup> Jn 14: 9

<sup>20</sup> Lk 22:19

## The Mutual Love of the Father and Son <sup>21</sup>

*The Father and the Son love each other  
Utterly and completely  
– Their love for each other is so perfect,  
It is vibrant with life:  
Alive with life  
In the very Person of the Living Love  
Breathed forth between Father and Son  
... Truly, the Spirit of Love.*

*As the personalized Mutual Love between Them  
The Spirit is the Father's and the Son's  
Source of unity.  
Indeed, the Spirit is the Expression  
Of all that They are together  
... CENTERING who They are together.*

*The Spirit is ...  
Their Joy!  
Their Peace!  
Their Beauty!  
Their Glory!*

*Thus when the Spirit of Love dwells IN US,  
We are at the Centre of God's Love.  
We are loved by both Father and Son  
With a love so perfect  
We come alive in Their Love  
– Given Life, as adopted sons and daughters,  
Through Their Mutual Love  
... The Spirit!*

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<sup>21</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, Yeppoon 1971

## With Jesus in Mind<sup>22</sup>

*The Spirit of Love indwells us,  
Only if we reproduce the image  
Of being Jesus in our lives  
... Only if we love as Jesus loves.  
Loving thus, fits our human nature,  
Because, we are made,  
‘In the image and likeness of God’;<sup>23</sup>  
And, as Jesus is God’s perfect image and likeness,  
It is clear that we were made WITH JESUS IN MIND  
... Created with Jesus as the template,  
... Patterned on His perfect humanity.  
And the more we are like Jesus  
The more His Father is attracted to us  
And lavishes love upon us.*

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<sup>22</sup> Written at St Brendan’s boarding College, Yeppoon 1971

<sup>23</sup> Gen 1:26

## The People of the Spirit<sup>24</sup>

*When the Spirit of Love is given to us  
Love, as a Person,  
Is breathed forth into our person.  
And, since this Loving Spirit  
Is also the Spirit of Unity  
Not only are we united, in love,  
To the Father and Jesus,  
But to all people  
Within whom the Spirit dwells  
We thus become one people  
... The Spirit's people  
– One in identity, one in heart, one in vision.*

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<sup>24</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, Yeppoon 1971

## Being Jesus<sup>25</sup>

*Being a committed Catholic,  
Means BEING JESUS in our world:  
... Loving as Jesus loves  
... Opposing all that's un-Godlike,  
Firstly in ourselves and then in others.  
We strive, like Jesus,  
'To hate sin, but love the sinner'  
... Always avoiding hating ourselves or others  
... Favouring what enhances, what is life-giving.*

*Our focus, always, is the God of Jesus  
Who loves life into us and into others.  
Being Jesus ...  
We pray to become channels of the Father's love  
– Of the divine love which enables all growth  
To flourish in our lives :  
... Healing the wounds with which we wound ourselves,  
... Dousing the embers of enmity,  
... And fanning to a flame, dreams of reconciliation  
- All to the Praise of the Father's Glory!*

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<sup>25</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, Yeppoon 1971

## **The Forgiveness of Sin**<sup>26</sup>

*The Church wisely teaches  
‘The Holy Spirit is the forgiveness of sin’.<sup>27</sup>  
Indeed, welcoming the Spirit’s presence into our lives  
Sees sin vanish – as does night with the advent of day.  
Still, while the Spirit NEVER withdraws His wondrous Presence,  
Through sin, we snub God’s Presence,  
Sustaining the pretence that the ever-present God is absent!  
... As we, effectively, close in on ourselves.*

*We are all sinners,  
And the Father of love  
... Like the father of the prodigal son ...  
‘Runs, throws his arms around us and kisses us tenderly’.<sup>28</sup>  
To avoid sin, we must pattern our life on Christ,  
Of whom the Scriptures declare  
‘God is a LOVER OF LIFE’.<sup>29</sup>*

*Thus, to identify with Christ,  
We need to become 100% lovers of life  
... Loving the Father, in Christ,  
With ALL  
Of our heart, our understanding, and our strength,  
... And loving others,  
Equally  
– 100%*

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<sup>26</sup> Written at St Brendan’s boarding College, Yeppoon 1971

<sup>27</sup> Eastertide Mass Prayer, from Eph 1:7

<sup>28</sup> Lk 15:21

<sup>29</sup> Wis 11:26 (JB)

# Folio Two

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# Folio Two

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- 30 A Teenager's Prayer to Mary
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- 32 Apology to God
- 33 Eucharistic Thanksgiving
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- 35 Any One of God's Faces
- 36 Our Loving God
- 37 I Am Not My Own
- 38 A Freedom, Enshrined Eternally
- 39 At the Service of the Community
- 40 Call Me, Gift Me, Send Me

## Our Utterly Selfless Brother<sup>30</sup>

*'The life of man upon earth is a warfare,' Scripture insists.*<sup>31</sup>

*Nowhere is it more a warfare than WITHIN US*

*– The warfare see-sawing between our stark selfishness*

*And our longing to be like Jesus*

*... The truly best of human beings*

*... And our utterly selfless brother.*

*This warfare surges to and fro –*

*Between loving with integrity, and lusting;*

*Between being warmly open-hearted, and being possessive and greedy;*

*Between empowering others, and centring all on self;*

*Between being caring and forgiving, and being spiteful and hard-hearted;*

*Between Christian social responsibility, and self-absorbed irresponsibility.*

*This warfare ought to sensitize us*

*To the Christian realization*

*That 'I am a sinner'*

*– That is, I always love imperfectly, yet need constantly to imitate Jesus;*

*I am attracted by sin but find it never satisfies;*

*I cannot trust my own strength while avoiding sin.*

*I therefore NEED*

*Christ's divinely human strength*

*Because Jesus is, at the same time*

*Both all-LOVING and all-EMPOWERING!*

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<sup>30</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, Yeppoon, 1971

<sup>31</sup> Job 7:1 (Douay-Rheims)

## A Graced Change of Heart<sup>32</sup>

*With sin, our hearts close in,  
Focussing on our self ... or on one or other of God's creatures  
– Failing to stay open to the WHOLE of life  
To ALL God is for us!*

*With a graced change of heart,  
We apologize to the Father of Love,  
For our attempts to LIMIT His love.*

*Then, with hearts hopefully opened to the Spirit's Presence,  
We set ourselves to re-imitate Jesus  
– Both in the wonderfully integrating relationship with His Father,  
And in His open, inclusive human relationships  
... Ever mindful  
That all such caring, healing life-choices  
Are, always, gifts of the Spirit.*

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<sup>32</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, Yeppoon 1971

## The Transcending Gift of Presence<sup>33</sup>

*Our own human spirit  
Is that dimension of us whereby we share  
In the deep personal presence of others  
... Such that we entertain each other's spirit,  
And, thus, numerous spirits together  
– All timeless, spaceless realities –*

*WITHIN our spirit.*

*Thus, our spirit allows us  
TO BE*

*Our inner selves, within others  
And they, within us.*

*And, superlatively, transcendingly,  
In a unique and transformative way  
Father, Son and Spirit share Their Presence with us  
In the deepest centre of our spirit.  
They do so, utterly and completely,  
Offering us  
ALL WHO THEY ARE TOGETHER.*

*For our part, we embody our spirit's response  
To Their Presence within  
By humbly acknowledging, ALWAYS –  
That all the graces we receive in this Encounter,  
That all our own responses to Their Presence,  
Are GIFTS*

*– Love's sheer, unconditional gifts of love,  
Gifts, wondrously accompanied  
By the Giver of the gifts!*

*And marvellously, this Presence, these gifts,  
Enhance and dignify us  
Through the whole of our life  
... 'Grace unto grace'<sup>34</sup>  
'Until we become, humanly, fully mature in Christ'<sup>35</sup>*

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<sup>33</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, Yeppoon 1972

<sup>34</sup> Jn 1:16

<sup>35</sup> Eph 1:13

## Indwelling Our Whole Reality <sup>36</sup>

*Father, Son and Spirit, dwelling within us  
– And inviting us to dwell, ever more deeply, with them –  
Are, Mysteriously, forever beyond –  
The reach of our touch,  
The reach of our imagination,  
The reach of our emotions,  
The reach of our thinking,  
The reach of our will  
... Eluding all human efforts  
To initiate or to control Their Presence.*

*However, even unchurched, our spirits can reach Them  
Through prayer  
... Graced prayer ...  
Or, by sharing Their silence with Them.  
By drawing us, within ourselves,  
To Their silent centre,  
They allow us to somehow sense  
Their Presence  
As They rejoice in Their Love for each other,  
And for us, in Christ.*

*Wondrously, moreover, Father, Son and Spirit  
... Knowing our inability to initiate any Encounter,  
Also choose lovingly to DRAW us to Themselves  
In a persuasive, exterioralized way  
– In an outpouring of generosity –  
Through Their historical self-revelation in the Scriptures,  
And in Their Covenant of Election and Obligation.*

*Then, astoundingly, in a divine deluge of love,  
Father, Son and Spirit  
Step so decisively into our lives  
... That Their Covenant of Calvary, Church and Indwelling Intimacy,  
Divides our history into two ...  
Around the Person of Jesus Christ  
– The Sacrament of Their presence in the world.*

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<sup>36</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, Yeppoon 1972

*Now bodying Their Presence to us through His Church,  
Their overwhelming choice of Encounter  
Is to gather a People together, within Their Paschal Mystery,  
Through the Ascended Jesus' loving sacramental ACTIONS  
... All within the encompassing sacrament of His Church.*

*Superlatively They draw us, through the Eucharist  
– Into a co-enactment  
Of the WHOLE Paschal Mystery  
... Culminating  
In our adoption as brothers and sisters  
Of the Ascended Jesus  
– Through His sharing of the Paschal Spirit with us.*

*This Uplifting to the divine  
Usbers in a new era for our humanity  
– Individually and communally –  
Wherein the Trinity of Love's  
New deeply PERSONALIZED indwelling  
Makes us 'sharers in the divine nature'.<sup>37</sup>*

## A Wedding Made in Heaven <sup>38</sup>

*Rationally, within marriage, for each to LIMIT their sharing  
To a pledged 50% contribution*

*... So a sense of wholeness and oneness can be arrived at ...*

*Can be very persuasive.*

*However, the folly of this earnest arrangement,*

*Jesus suggests,*

*Can be easily demonstrated:*

*For, as each gives 50%,*

*An obvious 50% is retained for one's self*

*– A clear recipe for a contentious, self-focussed marriage.*

*No, Jesus' wisdom enjoins each to give 100%*

*– Each to surrender themselves FULLY to the other –*

*Whereby 'the two shall become one' ...*

*For 'they are no longer two, but one body'. <sup>39</sup>*

*Husband and wife are united WITHIN*

*... Through Jesus' Spirit of Love*

*Because, being a SACRAMENTAL action of God,*

*Marriage is an enabling sign of Christ's UNITIVE PRESENCE.*

*This enabling Unitive Presence*

*Is that Face of the Paschal Mystery*

*Wherein the Ascended Jesus draws to Himself,*

*In deepest intimacy,*

*An ever-assembling Church, as His glorious BRIDE.*

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<sup>38</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, 1972

<sup>39</sup> Mt 19: 5-6

## A Time for Choice<sup>40</sup>

*There is a natural developmental time*  
– *Around seventeen or eighteen years*  
    *For most –*  
*For a primal religious choice to present itself*  
... *With one's capacity then sufficiently developed*  
*To minimally grasp or at least sense –*  
    *What it means to transcend time*  
        ... *To be eternal,*  
            *What it means to be*  
                *All loving,*  
                *All empowering,*  
            *With a universal reach,*  
        *With a heart truly open to all.*

*For some of these ...*  
        *This natural development,*  
    *Together with personal receptivity to Grace,*  
    *Allows them, much more really, to CHOOSE CHRIST*  
        – *The Christ who enters our history,*  
    *And who draws it and our renewed humanity,*  
        ... *Into the centre of eternity,*  
            *Into the heart of God.*

*These young adults,*  
    *By allowing their identities to be merged with Christ's,*  
        *Come to share in His trans-historical consciousness,*  
    *And, more wondrously, to share in His Paschal humanity's*  
        *Eternalizing experience of God's Embrace.*

*There are those, of course, who stall in their natural development*  
– *Becoming locked in a mid-teen's limited spiritual horizons,*  
– *Or allowing their spirit's opening to the eternal*  
    *To be stifled*  
    ... *By their confining life-choices.*

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<sup>40</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, Yeppoon 1972



*And, further, there are those who baulk  
At the deeper level, unwilling to surrender their identity  
To Christ :  
Unable to welcome Christ to live His LIFE in them,  
Unable to choose to live their life in Him.*

*In the face of all this,  
Faithful spirits  
Open their hearts WIDER STILL  
To draw in  
The grace of sweet surrender to Christ  
FOR OTHERS  
... All others  
— So all can move  
Into the full flowering  
Of both their natural and Paschally graced,  
Humanity.*

## Being Human is Being Kind <sup>41</sup>

*In opening to the fullness of being human,  
Jesus acted justly, loved tenderly,  
And walked humbly with His God. <sup>42</sup>  
Jesus continues to love His humanity  
And loves to walk with us as a fellow human being  
... For this is His cherished yearning  
— To brother us  
As sons and daughters of the same wondrous Father.*

*Jesus came to show us  
That being-of-our-kind  
Is the CORE REASON  
For our being KIND to each other.  
As the perfect human,  
Jesus radiated human kindness  
... Showing us what it is to be essentially human.*

*Jesus highlighted*

- *How those who sin are UNKIND  
Being what they ought not be ... un-human, inhumane.*
- *How those who WANT to be unkind,  
Want to be NOT OF OUR KIND  
... That is, a loner, a self-centred individual.*
- *How to be KIND  
Is to be a loving family person,  
To be like Himself  
... The Father's BELOVED Son  
... The focus of the Divine Family.*

*Most crucially, Jesus showed with His life,  
That He died FOR OUR KIND,  
So we became 'members of one another', <sup>43</sup>  
- One of a KIND ! KIND like Him!*

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<sup>41</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, Yeppoon 1972

<sup>42</sup> Micah 6:8

<sup>43</sup> Eph 4:25

## Die My Sins<sup>44</sup>

*Die my sins with Christ! O die!*  
*Die my sins with Christ ... O Christ!*  
*Pained, contorting, crucified –*  
*With You.*  
*Thrust them into hell, O Christ :*  
*In the furnace of Your great torment*  
*Let die –*  
*All my crass desires – yes, all!*  
*Sear self to its roots – O, yes ...*  
*Die my sins with Christ – entomb!*  
*Leave – just what ought to be, within ...*  
*Christen what remains; Enthuse!*  
*Then ... Smile ...*  
*Rise through pain with You, and vow*  
*Never! – sin again: God's Death –*  
*Prevent!*  
*Brace me with Your strength – renew;*  
*O Spirit me Yourself, O Christ,*  
*Breathe forth into me – not smite!*  
*Brother all to me: blood of Yours ...*

*Mary, Mother us: Lings, Browns, Bantus too*  
*Enfold ...*  
*Christ's will's tongue's hand, we'll be!*  
*Soon – Spirit us away; no – stop:*  
*Here! Work!*  
*Within us form Your Christ, O Spirit ...*  
*That the Father see in us, HIS Son –*  
*And do what's His to do –*  
*Father children ...*  
*Glory!*  
*Yes! God .. Is .. Family ...*  
*O Torrents of Joy, O Rivers of Peace –*  
*O God – O God – O God*  
*Our God*

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<sup>44</sup> Written at St Brendan's boarding College, Yepoon 1972

## Of the Teenage Christ<sup>45</sup>

*O Holy Spirit of the Father and Christ,  
Living deep within me,  
Shine forth through my thoughts and words and actions,  
So that they may become for others  
– The thoughts and words and actions  
Of the teenage Christ.*

*Strengthen me to respect others' feelings,  
Their reputations and property,  
To be pure in my friendships  
And to respect myself as a home for You,  
The Spirit of the Father and Christ.<sup>46</sup>*

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<sup>45</sup> Written at St Joseph's College community, Gregory Terrace, 1973

<sup>46</sup> One of six prayer-poems (29-34) composed which, with other prayers, formed a booklet for morning prayer for mid-Secondary classes which the author taught in the '70's and '80's. Some changes were made to the prayer-poems through the years.

## A Teenager's Prayer to Mary<sup>47</sup>

*Mary, virgin, Mother of God:  
Let us be wholehearted in our service of God.*

*Mary, Mother of our Redeemer:  
Keep us loyal to Your Son.*

*Mary, favourite daughter of the Father:  
Form in us, a true respect for girls.*

*Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit:  
Let me also respect myself as His temple.*

*Mary, Mother of Jesus the man:  
Let me respect ALL of humanity:  
Black and white, rich and poor,  
Successful and unsuccessful,  
Winners and losers.*

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<sup>47</sup> Written for teenagers at St Joseph's College community, Gregory Terrace, 1973

## Prayer in Paschaltime <sup>48</sup>

*Jesus, by Your having become God-Man,  
I thank You  
For wanting to carry the guilt of my sins,  
For being the model of our humanity.*

*Jesus, by Your Death,  
Do to death  
My sins of thought, of speech, my sinful actions;  
Strengthen me in temptation.*

*Jesus, by Your Resurrection,  
Revitalize me with Your Life,  
The Life of a loving Son.  
Form in me a new relationship to Creation.*

*Jesus, by Your Ascension,  
In Your glorious re-newed humanity,  
Unite us to Your Father  
... Winning for us Your Spirit of Love.*

*Jesus, by Your Bestowal of the Spirit,  
Let us shine forth that Spirit in our lives  
– To form communities of love,  
And my own family of love.*

*Father of Jesus,  
Father us, as You Father Your Son  
... With Your promised Gift,  
The same Spirit of Love,  
The Seal of our adoption  
– Given to Him, for us!*

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<sup>48</sup> Written for teenagers at St Joseph's College community, Gregory Terrace, 1973

## Apology to God<sup>49</sup>

*Lord Jesus Christ, I apologize and beg pardon  
For my sins and failures.  
I detest them, because I bring about for myself  
... Eternal loneliness and misery in hell,  
Because they have crucified You, my loving Saviour,  
And, most of all, because they represent  
My failure, in love, for You,  
And my lack of concern for my neighbour.*

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<sup>49</sup> Written for teenagers at St Joseph's College community, Gregory Terrace, 1973

## Eucharistic Thanksgiving<sup>50</sup>

*Most loving Abba,*<sup>51</sup>

*Father of tenderness and compassion,*

*Fathering us within everlasting love,*

*We thank You for Your wonderful Gift*

*... The fulfilment of every human heart*

*— Jesus, Your Beloved, whom You love indescribably*

*— Jesus, our Way of Love, the Truth of love, our Life of Love.*

*Jesus, lover of life,*<sup>52</sup>

*Reveal this love of life to me.*

*Because of my deeply rooted failings*

*Be my Saviour again.*

*Renew my joy in Your Presence*

*... So that I may truly glorify*

*And bear God in my body.*

*Because, brother Jesus, You do not redeem us*

*From our weaknesses but IN our weaknesses ...*

*Bring me to accept who I am in Your sight now,*

*And help me to bear my cross daily and follow You.*

*Let Your Presence blossom in the fullness of Your Spirit.*

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<sup>50</sup> Written for teenagers at St Joseph's College community, Gregory Terrace 1973

<sup>51</sup> 'Abba' – a later editing, see note on Poem 40

<sup>52</sup> Wis 11: 26 (JB)



*Holy Spirit of Abba and Jesus,  
Gentle comforter in the heart,  
Stir my heart to accept  
With deep humility and yearning  
... You, O wondrous Gift of Love  
Help me to surrender myself wholly,  
Through Jesus to Abba.  
Flood Jesus' love for Abba into my heart,  
And thus into the hearts of others.  
Empower with Your guidance, Your peace and Your joy  
All those who have a special claim on my love.  
May you be the Praise of Abba's Glory within me. <sup>53</sup>*

## Use Me to Make You Loved<sup>54</sup>

*Jesus, may Your Spirit  
Use me, to make You loved  
– That my life may radiate Yours  
... Even through my failures.  
I need Your help, Jesus,  
Your special brothering.  
The world needs Your light.  
May I so live  
That I become a light for others,  
Leading them to You  
– ‘The way, the truth and the life.’<sup>55</sup>*

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<sup>54</sup> Written for teenagers at St Joseph’s College community, Gregory Terrace, 1973

<sup>55</sup> Jn 14:6

**Any One of God's Faces**<sup>56</sup>

*Any one of God's faces*

*Is the face of any other:*

*Be it giving, receiving, freeing ...*

*Be it loving, choosing, creating.*

*Because the Father, Jesus and the Spirit*

*Share all these AS ONE ...*

*They are utterly poor, utterly rich,*

*Utterly dependent on each other,*

*Yet utterly free.*

*They are creatively loving,*

*Yet lovingly creative.*

*They are communally divine*

*Yet divinely personal.*

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<sup>56</sup> Written at St Joseph's College community, Gregory Terrace, 1975

## Our Loving God<sup>57</sup>

*Our loving God,  
Father, Son and Spirit,  
ATTRACTS US  
To what is of Them  
... As it is beautied forth in every creature.*

*Careful, lest we be captivated by the creature*

*Our graced destiny  
Is to allow ourselves  
To be ATTRACTED  
By our adorable, irresistibly beautiful God  
... To behold ... to experience ...  
The life-centering BEAUTY  
Of Their ecstatic Communing together.*

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<sup>57</sup> Written at St Joseph's College community Gregory Terrace, 1975

## I Am Not My Own<sup>58</sup>

*I love You, my beloved Jesus,  
I love You more than myself ...  
Because I am not my own  
But Yours!  
I repent for ever having offended You,  
Because You  
Are so good!  
Never permit me  
To separate myself from You again;  
Grant that I may love You always,  
And then do with me  
As You desire ...*

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<sup>58</sup> Written at Clairveaux College Community, Mount Gravatt 1976.

I was Deputy Headmaster in the mornings and three days a week, from noon into night, attended the University of Queensland for a two-year Master of Literary Studies.

## A Freedom, Enshrined Eternally<sup>59</sup>

*Human nature cannot be fully explained:*

*It is forever OPEN*

*– To the Presence of God!*

*Moreover, while humanity's core and dignity are unchanging*

*– Even if not fully explicable –*

*We do change, in areas that are open*

*To human freedom*

*... A freedom, enshrined, Eternally*

*Within the freeing will of God.*

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<sup>59</sup> Written at Clairveaux College Community, Mount Gravatt, 1977

## At the Service of the Community<sup>60</sup>

*Call to mind ...*

*One can only gift one's spouse, one's friend*

*With a gift of love*

*That is birthed in the heart of a community.*

*To complete the cycle,*

*Such love always needs, ultimately,*

*To be at the SERVICE*

*Of the community*

*... 'So that ALL may be one'.<sup>61</sup>*

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<sup>60</sup> Written at St Patrick's College community, Mackay, 1978. I was the College Deputy Headmaster

<sup>61</sup> Jn 17: 22

## Call Me, Gift Me, Send Me <sup>62</sup>

(AS FROM JESUS ... AND BECAUSE OF OUR ADOPTION... FROM US, IN HIM)

O Abba,  
CALL me, through Your Spirit,  
That I may continue to seek Your Presence  
Al through each day and night,  
With whoever I am with  
... Always discovering You in the present moment.

O Abba,  
GIFT me with Your Spirit,  
That I may ever be reconciled with You ...  
Dwelling in the heart of the family or community,  
And accompany You in each wounded person.

O Abba,  
SEND me ... Your Spirit  
– To move me to worship You  
... Dwelling in the heart of a group  
Gathered in Your name;  
And in every open-hearted individual.  
With the Spirit's prompting,  
Move me, further,  
To serve and tend to You,  
IN them.

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<sup>62</sup> Written at the National Tertianship, Marsfield, Sydney, early 1980

The National Tertianship was held at Vaughan College from January through to March 1980, and comprised a group of same-aged Brothers from across Oceania. The author was aged 37 and wrote: 'This was a watershed course in two ways (1) God's key gift to me – 'God first loves me in every instance i.e., loving God is only ever a response to God's initiative and (2) I began from this time in my life to address the Father AS JESUS DID – in the second person, with the familiar 'Abba'.