

Folio Thirty-Nine

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Dawn of the Eucharist ¹

(Poem 10, of 20 [#])

Jesus,

OUR Beloved ... Our Eucharist ... ABBA'S own Beloved

Amongst us ! For us !

In You, we hunger, we thirst, ... for UNION with Abba.

Even the passing sense of Your Mystical Body's pain

– The passing distress of a parent,

The sudden anguish of an adolescent –

Has us clamouring to reach out to You,

To share Your healing power.

Your response to our pleas,

Is to flood our lives

With healing, nurture and growth :

BODYING nourishment to all,

Letting Your Own Precious, Glorified Blood

Course through the arteries of our lives

... Renewing us, re-uniting us,

Re-conforming us to Your likeness.

Our response to You , the Word, ALIVE, in the BODY of our Church

– To Your circulating BLOOD, re-affirming us, as KIN–

Is beyond words, beyond verbal thanks :

It is You, You Yourself Jesus !

The only one worthy to express our love to Abba !

The living expression of love itself !

Opening all our hearts to Abba ... in Yours !

In this Paschal 'hour' of our lives, we ARE
– Co-crucified with You, surrendering all !
– Raised up, and incorporated into You, the New Man !
– Welcomed back home, IN You, within Abba's rapturous embrace !
– En-Spirited into the Paschal Fellowship of Love ...
– And empowered to lavish Their Spirit of Communion
... Upon each brother, each sister,
So that WE BECOME EUCHARIST, in You – for the world !

See Note, Poem 751.

Jesus' Agony in the Garden ¹

(Poem 11, of 20 [#])

Jesus,
In this ancient olive grove,
In IMMERSING Your radically open-hearted spirit
In our humanity's ocean of sin
– In all its overwhelming
Horror, ugliness, stench, bitterness, revulsion and isolation –
You experience, FOR US –
The cruelty of pride,
The false joy of spitefulness,
The cold-heartedness of envy,
The tortuousness of compulsions,
The indifference of violence,
The bitter stubbornness of revenge,
And the ruthless meaninglessness of murder !

Still, Jesus,
Even while the terror and primal shock of all this
Expels Your very life-blood
Through the pores of Your shuddering skin,
You continue ... and continue ... to LOVE
– Responding, in Your agony, with forgiveness
To all the enemies of love,
... From gross self-centeredness to communal rejection of love.

*Then, in the stark, bleak spirit-scape
Of feeling abandoned by Your Beloved Abba,
Your love AS SON resolves itself*

Into blind trust ...

Into that deepest, most solitary, totally unknowing

SENSE OF DEPENDENCE

—Sheer, raw faith :

“Only what you want, Abba !”²

See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 761, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, September 2006, Week 1

2 Lk 22:43.

Jesus' Scourging ¹

(Poem 12, of 20 #)

*Jesus,
As the lash rips skin from Your chest and back
– Embodying, in searing pain,
The whole murderous war of flesh upon the spirit –
You continue, in Your heart's abyss,
To faithfully mirror
Abba's limitlessly tender embrace of "all flesh".*

*While evil wreaks havoc externally,
Lacerating Your quivering frame,
Convulsing all Your muscles ...
It also seeks to crush and VOID Your trust
In the Love – that – lasts !
Yet, these hellish waves of pain
Only DEEPEN Your trust in Abba !*

See Note, Poem 751.

Jesus' Crowning with Thorns ¹

(Poem 13, of 20 #)

Jesus,

As the sheer malevolence of Empire

– Mirroring our common human tendency to visit mindless violence

On anonymous, blameless victims –

Vengefully drives the thorns of spite or envy

Deep into Your skull,

You choose – FOR OUR SAKE – to submit

To evil's onslaught.

This onslaught of vicious inhumanity punctures first, Your body,

Then Your heart's emotions,

And then, tries to INVADE Your mind

–By mocking Your kingdom of love,

And trying to devalue Your kinship of love with us !

This submission to evil's impacts, only serves to highlight

Your earlier, sublimely humble, radical choice

To set aside the Divine Dignity

– The Glory of the Triune Fellowship of Love !

This is a dignity You abdicated,

Simply and solely, TO BE WITH US

... To re-connect us to Your Father,

Thereby humbly re-modelling human trust,

Our trust in the tenderest of Fathers

... Through You, the kindest of brothers !

See Note, Poem 751.

Jesus' Carrying of the Cross ¹

(Poem 14, of 20 [#])

Jesus,

You were surrounded on Your way of pain,

By US

... Yet, we "knew not what we were doing !" ²

You carried US to Calvary :

WE, were Your Cross !

You picked us up when WE fell

... *Out of compassion.*

Through Simon, begrudgingly – but then, freely,

WE picked You up when YOU fell

... *Your grace, softening our initially indifferent hearts.*

Yet, ultimately, we were incapable, OURSELVES, of a complete change

– *Because WE also did the nailing ;*

WE also stood round jeering and mocking You

... *For NOT coming down from the Cross which, of course, was our cross as well !*

You became OUR spectator-sport

... *As Your body convulsed in spasms,*

And suffocated the last vestiges of human life out of You.

All of US watched You suffering

And, even if some cared,

NONE of US

Had the COURAGE to move against group pressure

– *To relieve Your torment, or to carry the load !*

Mary did ... but believed it more important, to co-offer Your Sacrifice with You

– *To co-witness to Abba's utter love for US !*

It was only when You died
– *As a holocaust* FOR LOVE OF US,
That we realized
That You were ... COVENANTED TO US,
WED TO US UNTO DEATH – AND BEYOND !
“O ! Too late have we loved You !” ³
Too late have we treasured
Your love !

See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 764, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, September 2006, Week 2.

2 Cf Lk 23:34 3 St Augustine.

Jesus' Crucifixion ¹

(Poem 15, of 20 #)

*Jesus Crucified,
You hang there ... joined to us
In loving kinship
... "Even unto death", ²
But NOT 'to death do us part'
– Because, in being "lifted up",
You draw us to Yourself, ³
And in so doing, draw us TOGETHER,
To each other,
To Communion with Your Divine Family
... Born of Life's resurgence
Out of death!*

*In that 'hour', in You, O Son of Life,
We journey THROUGH death
–IN YOUR BODY, in Your very Person!
In You, as members of Your incipient Church,
We are suspended between heaven and earth ...
Passing over from the heart of sin
To the heart of God!
It is a heart we have access to,
ONLY through the wound of Your open side
–Whence flows the waters of the Spirit ⁴
Alive with the Life of God!*

#See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 765, Year 8, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, September 2006. Week 3

2 Phil 2:8

3 Jn 12:32

4 Church Fathers.

Jesus' Resurrection ¹

(Poem 16, of 20[#])

Risen Jesus,

Revivified in You, we are raised up

As the 'New Man', as the 'New Creation' of Abba's Love ! ²

... Raised up in You, the glorious focus of the universe !

The radiant heart of humanity !

... As Son in Fellowship !

As Child of Abba !

As the Beloved !

We are raised as brothers and sisters to You

... As both the Delight of the Cosmos, and beloved feet-washer !

We are raised with You, as the Glorious Body and Blood for humanity,

Whose Blood vitalized Your Glorious Body

And now, courses through our Church Community's 'arteries'

– Nourishing the poor in spirit,

–Nurturing the lowly and humble

... Those who know their need of God !

Wondrously, we are gifted with a myriad of risen brothers and sisters

–A galaxy of KIN !

All have Your eyes, Your smile !

They embrace, with but ONE set of arms – Yours !

Their hearts pulse, with just ONE heartbeat – Yours

... Drawing all into its RISEN rhythm

–Pulsing as ONE with Abba's Spirit !

Paradoxically, it is YOUR WOUNDS
... That, having opened a passageway to Abba's Heart on the Cross,
Now become emblems of identification with You !
Our icons of adoption !
The Spirit's seal of Glory for us !

See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 766, Year 8, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, September 2006. Week 3.

2 Eph 2:15 J.B. then N.R.S.V.

Jesus' Ascension ¹

(Poem 17, of 20[#])

Jesus Ascended,

As the sun of Eternal Life IS ALREADY RISEN in Your spirit,

With You, we are swept up into the arms of Love :

Enraptured in the Fire of Abba's Divine Heart !

In that Spirit of Love, KISSED FORTH between Abba and You,

We IN You, proclaim the ASCENSION of humanity

–To the Glory of God !

In Your Radiant Body

–The apogee of Creation !–

Our transformed spirits, infinite with Your capacity,

Are filled, to overflowing

With the Divine Glory

–Abba's, and now, Your very own Spirit !

THUS is our humanity divinized in Yours :

Abba's "Promise" to You, ²

Now becomes Gift ALIVE in You !

"Given without reserve," ³

Given to be shared with us,

Your ennobled brothers and sisters !

See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 767, Year 8, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, September 2006. Week 3.

2 Acts 2:33. 3 Jn 3:34.

Mary's Assumption ^{** 1}

(Poem 19, of 20[#])

Jesus,

*Your Mother, in being drawn to Abba's bosom,
Is the first WITNESS to full, resurrected love
– The prime witness to that immense transformation
That elevates and animates all human consciousness !*

*Assumed into the embrace of Glory,
Mary anchors faith, inspires hope,
And personalizes “the love that never ends”. ²*

*Her FAITH defines her being :
She is pure RECEPTIVITY to the Spirit,
Pure ATTENTIVENESS to the Word,
And pure ADORATION of the Father
... “My spirit glorifies the Lord !” ³*

*Her HOPE provides a model for the Church :
In her, the Church beholds its OWN IDENTITY,
And finds expressed in her,
What it is called to be !
And, like Mary assumed, “will see heaven OPENED,
And the angels of God , ascending and descending
On the Son of Man.” ⁴*

*In her surrender in love, Mary is taken up
Into the very heart of God,
Whose Son she cradled and saw die.
O Jesus, in drawing Mary “to Yourself in splendour”,⁵
She becomes humanity’s witness that this is OUR DESTINY !*

** This poem, in particular has little original content : it is more a poetic paraphrase, heavily using
Father A. Kelly’s prose phrasing. See # Note Poem 751.

1 Poem 769, Year 8, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, September 2006. Week 4.

2 1Cor 13:8

3 Lk 1:46

4 Jn 1:5

5 Cf Eph 5:27 (N.R.S.V.)

Mary's Crowning as Queen

** 1

(Poem 20, of 20[#])

Jesus,

Abba's crowning of Your Mother

... As the earthly co-regent of heavenly love ...

Overflows Your heart with a Son's love !

Within the depths of her life in God,

Mary inhales, and breathes forth

—As does the Church, for whom she is an icon—

Abba's and Your own Holy Breath of Fellowship !

She is, thus, the first EMBODIMENT

— Within Your own Glorified Body —

Of that wondrous Fellowship

Which we are ALL being called to receive, and communicate !

Mary's co-regency in love is a human symbol

Of created reality, aflame with God's grandeur !

As such, O Jesus,

Mary is the ANTICIPATION

Of Your promised TRANSFIGURED creation :

In her, the great cosmic marriage begins !

JESUS Ascended ... in Mary, IN YOU,

WE become beautiful to God !

In her glorious giftedness, our history matures

... And arrives at its age of consent !

All this is expressed, in her now eternalized 'fiat'

... 'I surrender all to Love Transcendent !' 2

*Out of the heavenly womb of Mary's SPIRIT,
Husbanded by Abba,
The WHOLE CHRIST of a transfigured creation
Is born !
In Mary, exalted as co-regent in the Spirit,
The Gift of the Trinitarian Paschal Mystery
Has ALREADY been assimilated
By our hope-filled humanity !
Mary, Queen of hearts, you are OUR HOPE !*

** This poem includes, about 40%, of Father A. Kelly's prose phrasing and thus while not wholly original, it is out of a partnership that I have fashioned this poem.

See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 770, Year 8, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, September 2006. Week 4.

2 Imagined quote.

Our Fellowship's Symphony ¹

*O Spirit of surprise,
Free our heart's voice
To join and harmonize
With those Divine tones sounding from every Paschal heart
—Especially with the deep poignant tones of crucified souls.*

*TOGETHER, the symphonic beauty
Of our New Fellowship's combined chorus
—Resonating AS the Ascending Word—
Transcends and transforms our lives
... As our eager response
To Abba's Song of Welcoming Love to us !*

Rainbowed Spirits ¹

*We are but floating droplets of water
Misted, by that Stream of Life
Flowing from Christ's crucified side.*

*As His EASTER'S radiant white light
Strikes this 'spray',
We become rainbowed prisms, alive with Life !*

*Now, we are no longer isolated floating droplets
But TOGETHER,
Arching across Abba's skyscape,
We reflect the Paschal Face
Of Christ's rainbowed Beauty ...
Shimmering in the mist of Easter Morn.*

His Wounds, Source of Our Healing ¹

“Jesus’ wounds are never healed over” ²

... From them, Eternally,

Pours forth His Glory

For us.

Why? Because Jesus’ wounds are within us,

Within us, who are HIS BODY !

We truly co-share in His glorious woundedness :

“For the wounds ... of my people” is MY heart wounded ! ³

The Glory pouring forth from His Wounds

Regenerates us, makes us whole ... IN Him

So that we become “an altogether new creature”, ⁴

Members of the New Paschal Person of Christ,

Co-sharing in the DESTINY of our Ascended Brother.

1 Poem 773, Marian Valley Retreat, early October 2006, Day 1.

2 Saying of Fr Gabriel, member of the Marian Valley’s Pauline Monastery.

3 Jer 8:11

4 Gal 6:15 (J.B.)

Uplifted ¹

Inspiration: “The whole of our Life, in Christ, is a continuous process
... Of God drawing us, raising us up to Himself, uplifting us.” ²

*In being UPLIFTED into the Beloved’s Eucharistic Presence,
Raised up into the unfolding of the Paschal Mystery –
... the more humility is entrusted to us,
the warmer is our sense of being ‘at home’;
... the warmer our sense of being ‘at home’,
the greater is our surrender of self;
... the greater our surrender of self,
the stronger is our yearning for intimacy and union;
... the stronger our yearning for intimacy and union,
the deeper we identify as both ‘beloved’ and ‘lover’;
... the deeper we identify as both ‘beloved’ and ‘lover’,
the free-er are the movements of His Spirit
– from Jesus ‘without’, to Jesus ‘within’ us.*

*Indeed, when the Eucharistic Jesus engages us, heart to heart
... the LESS our sense of self, of singularity, of separateness,
the deeper is our sense of the Other, of belongingness ;
... the less our attentiveness is to timing, to surrounds, to activity,
the deeper is our sense of timelessness, spacelessness, and stillness ;
... the less we attend to words, even Jesus’ WORDS,
the more the Beloved’s VOICE silences our hearts ;
... the less we attend to the taste of the Sacred Bread and Wine
– to OUR experience of Eucharist –*

*The more the Beloved delights in bestowing His Kiss ;
... the less we focus on the earthen impacts of Jesus' Body and Blood,
the more receptive is our sense of BEING RAISED,
Of both transcending this earth, and being re-connected to it !
... and ultimately, in deepest simplicity,
the MORE we feel transparent to His Light within us,
the more luminously we seem to radiate the Beloved's Presence !*

1 Poem 774, Marian Valley Retreat, early October 2006, Day 2.

2 Fr Gabriel, member of the Marian Valley's Pauline Father's Monastery.

Three Birds Outside My Window ¹

*Inconspicuous, its entry into the bush clearing ...
Nonchalant, its meanderings through the weeds ...*

THE PHEASANT still managed

Brief spasms of flight !

It seemed content with its earth bound inheritance,

Yet still aware of flight's benefit ...

And truly conscious of a sky to escape to !

A bird indistinguishable from its surrounds ...

A palette of earthen browns ;

Its only arresting feature –

Impressive, arching tail feathers ...

To guide, to balance it, in its low-level 'sorties'.

This is "the Spirit-bird":

One with us, with our earthbound horizons,

Yet one, calling us BEYOND, and UPWARDS !

Alighting, like dawning rays, upon a branch ...

With a gloriously rainbowed rainment

–An explosion of colour in a kabki tree scape –

THE ROSELLA appeared ... a prince of the spectrum !

Perching close, focussing on my presence,

–Brilliantly garbed, head-dressed in vivid saffron –

It was an exclamation mark

To the ordinariness of the day !

This is "the Christ-bird":

The Easter-Glory bird of our hidden life

Revealing our Destiny !

*Then, as a sunbeam lit up my room,
Out of an overcast day,
A BIRD UNSEEN
–But gloriously HEARD –
Filled my spirit !
Again, and again, and again
Its piping five-note call
– Wondrously melodic –
Danced within my mind,
Bursting like a blare of trumpets
Into my inner being
... A Song of Divine Delight !
This is “The Abba-bird”:
Father of the Child of the New Age –
The Father of a reborn people’s joy !
Parent of a peace that will last forever !*

Members, One of Another ¹

A.

To deny one's self FOR Jesus,

To be 'crucified' with Jesus,

Is to be CARRIED, in Jesus' body,

Through death,

– Out of the isolation of sin,

Out of the Godlessness of evil –

To be uplifted in Jesus' Risen, Ascended Body,

To commune IN God, WITH God !

O Wonder of Love ! O Mystery of Divine Kinship !

Let us then embrace this Passover into Life, IN Christ,

... Wherein brother and sister carries sister and brother,

... Wherein each member is in heart-to-heart communion

With EVERY OTHER member

For, IN Christ,

We belong to one another

... "Members one of another" ! ²

The life we live is that-of-all-others within us :

As we receive from all, to give to all

... All become channels of Life to each other !

This Life, available FROM, and FOR, others

Is AS LIGHT, within and between us.

Thus there is a need for us all, to be TRANSPARENT

– Honest, trusting, open, at every level of our being.

Each is responsible for ALL of humankind ... welcoming or unwelcoming.

Each enlightens those of humanity ... who welcome the Light.

And wondrously, the love with which we love, IN Christ,

Is ALL a gift, from others,

And through us, to others !

B.

Yet, in a particular blessed way,

This ministering to ALL

Is the special ministry of those

“Who have left all to follow Christ”.³

For they are specifically CALLED to bestow their care

Not on the few, or even on the many,

But on ALL .

Still, for many of these evangelically vowed Christians,

Psychologically ... even pragmatically ...

Their hands reach out to many, not all.

Yet when the focus moves beyond care

–To spreading the Good News and to prayer –

Then, with an especial gift of God,

Those Christians, vowed or unwowed,

Who are called to be CONTEMPLATIVES,

Are left, through love, with no focus

–For the Good News, or for prayer –

Other than ALL !

*Often, but not always, physically removed from the world,
They are spiritually available to ALL.
The contemplative heart murmurs its love to the Beloved ...*

*FOR ALL –
Giving the ‘God-deaf,’ new ears,
The voiceless, a voice,
Becoming a praying heart, for all such.*

*The Beloved, in RESPONDING to these latter
– ‘Let me hear your voice
For your voice is sweet’ – ⁴*

*Showers all who now LISTEN, who now are GIVEN VOICE,
With a stream of Love’s gifts.
Thus, the contemplative, the praying heart,
Can become a conduit for God’s bounty
... A chosen entry point for the Spirit
To be poured into the lives of ALL !*

1 Poem 776, Marian Valley Retreat, early October 2009, Day 3.

2 Eph 4:25

3 Cf Mt 19:27,29

4 Sg 2:14

Rejoice! ¹

Disciples of Jesus :

... **Re**-visit frequently the source of our true JOY :

Communing with Abba, Jesus, and Loyce

... As They live Their Life of JOY

Within us !

... **E**ucharist your heart daily, within Christ's holocaust

Of His heart to Abba ;

Gather only what is good in others,

Becoming Eucharist-for-them, in the Beloved.

... **J**oin in Jesus Ascended's heart-song of love to Abba

– For that neighbour, nearest-in-need :

Pray that their need becomes

A God-space of trust.

... **O**ffer all we've become – Christened spirits –

As a gathering, communing group, to Abba

–Hearts of warmth and welcome

For all the lowly of this world.

... **I**ntroduce these lowly ones to brother Jesus,

So they can feel at home in His Heart :

Fathered fondly by an attentive Abba,

En-Spirited, to join hands and hearts with others !

... Confess our communal confidence in Abba's embrace
–To witness to the overwhelmingly attractive power
Of His self-surrendering Love !
–To simply adore His Loveliness !

... En-Spirit all others with the Spirit we've received, IN Christ,
Lavish them with Abba's Spirit of homemaking ...
With the Gift of Family Union,
Rejoicing in Father-Son-and Spirit's Gift to Each Other !

Radical Conversion : Radiating Fellowship ¹

Abba, Jesus, Loyce, ²

Change me RADICALLY :

Let me RADIATE *Your Fellowship*

To all people ...

So together : one IN *Christ*

We are *Lover, Beloved and Love ...*

¹ Poem 778, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

² Used by author, as a prayer at Eucharist.

Ears and Voice ¹

Jesus ²

Be the Ears and the Voice

Of the Beloved Son IN us;

Through us –

Do all that the Beloved does ...

BE all that the Beloved is ...

Within us.

1 Poem 779, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

2 Used by the author, as a prayer at Eucharist.

Folio Forty

Folio Forty

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790 When God is Present

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792 Be the Beloved, for Us

793 Love Became Man

794 One Single Existence

795 (St Patrick's) Love For Enemies

796 Becoming Eucharist

797 Thirsting for Abba's Presence

798 Hand in Hand

799 To Live is to Love

Holocaust ¹

Abba,

Draw me deeply in Jesus's sacrifice of love to You ;

Pour Jesus' Spirit of Sacrifice into my heart

... quickening it, into heartfelt surrender ;

Ready this heart, to keep on loving, through death,

... becoming a HOLOCAUST to Your Love ;

Make me an ever more explicit sign, and servant,

... of Your Beloved's Eucharistic Sacrifice .

¹ Poem 780, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

Note: Used by the author, as a prayer at Eucharist.

To Be-hold Love ¹

*“When Love is revealed,
we shall be like him,
for we shall see Him
as He really is.”* ²

To see Love

Is to desire Love ;

To meet Love’s gaze

Is to fulfil that desire :

To be drawn into Love ,

To become one with Love ;

For, to see Love,

Is to BE-HOLD Love !

... To HOLD THE ESSENCE of love

Within !

1 Poem 781, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

2 1Jn 3:2

Seven Names : One Fellowship ¹

God, 'The One Who Calls' ... is the Fellowship

CALLING us to intimacy, to communion

IN Christ.

God, 'The Almighty' ... is the Fellowship

EMPOWERING us to be one people,

IN Christ.

God, 'Immanuel' ... is the Fellowship

MAKING A HOME with us,

IN Christ.

God, 'The One Who Saves' ... is the Fellowship

DRAWING US from death into Life,

IN Christ.

God, 'The Most High' ... is the Fellowship

RAISING US to Divine Dignity,

IN Christ.

God, 'The All Holy' ... is the Fellowship

INTEGRATING all our experiences of love,

IN Christ.

God, 'I Am Who Am' ... is the Fellowship

ETERNALLY GIFTING US with communing with Itself,

IN Christ.

Alive Now, in Eternity ¹

Eternal Life centers our ordinary life :
The ordinary life ISSUING ETERNALLY from it !
Eternal Life gives meaning to our being alive NOW :
To be fully human NOW, is to be born of Eternity.
Eternal Life generates our PURPOSE for human living
– Becoming human TOGETHER, IN Christ.
Moreover, the age-old quest for fellowship
Comes from an experience, mysteriously , of Eternal Fellowship.

Indeed, our endless quest of the Spirit that centers us,
Is our homeing instinct for The Eternal ...
Our destiny is to be Eternal ;
Our reality is that we already live out that destiny
... But in a mostly HIDDEN way, obvious only to the deeply graced.

So, do not look FORWARD IN TIME, for Eternal Life :
Eternal Life animates time continuously,
Filling each moment of time with its presence.
TIMELESS, it gives substance and purpose to time ;
SPACELESS, it situates humanity's worth IN OUR SPIRITS
Itself, that Vivifying Power that en-spirits each person 'naturally'.

*To be fully human
Is to enjoy Eternal Life NOW
As a Gift,
And, thus vitalized, “to give as we have been given”.²
We also need, to bring to mind ...
That Eternal Life is ONLY given
To be received and celebrated
TOGETHER
... For “we belong to one another”.³*

1 Poem 783, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

2 Cf Mt 10:8.

3 Rom 12:5.

Mystery's Fellowship ¹

To be enveloped within the Mystery of God
... Is to be swept up into the Mystery of a wondrous Fellowship !
... Is to be moved to marvel at this encompassing Communion !
... Is to experience the limitless, loving wonder of the Divine Family !

As Father, Son and Spirit live out Their life of love within us
—As the Source and Summit of all fellowship —

This Boundless Love

Which is Their Gift to each other,

ANIMATES

All relationships on earth and in heaven .

Out of this utterly generative and empowering Fellowship

All that TENDS TO UNION, is ultimately enabled

—BE IT

... Sub-atomic particles SHARING energy,
... Ecosystems, with members MUTUALLY ADVANTAGING each other,
... Or humankind, living out the enabling modelling given us
—Of Divine parenting, and of Divine brothering,
And what it means to be ONE with the Divine family.
Indeed, from Their fount of Fellowship, all OUR fellow-feelings flow !

In the same way,
All creativity, all visioning, all wisdom,
Have their home in this Divine Cycle
Of mutual giving and receiving.

*Moreover, Their Fellowship eternally gives ALL LIFE –
Its birth, its meaning, and its glory ...
For, to be fully ALIVE, is to be IN Their Fellowship .
Yet, incomparably beyond this central enabling role,
And transcending all the above,
The Divine Fellowship's ultimate gift, to us specifically,
Is that of ACCOMPANIMENT,
For They CHOOSE to make THEIR HOME in us !
What an infinite outpouring of generosity !
What wondrous Divine Surrender !
... "My Father and I will come to you
And make our home with you" ²
... And I will give you the Spirit
"Whom I shall send to you from the Father." ³*

*To be good like God,
Is to relate, as the Father, Son and Spirit RELATE :
Absolute dependence is Their chosen Gift to each Other .
Through Their special gift to us
–The unfolding of the Paschal Mystery within us –
Our reality is ENABLED by Theirs.
We precisely become ourselves, AS THEY DO
–Through gifting ourselves to others
And receiving the gift of others to us.
We are ICONS of Their Fellowship
Within the centering ICON, Christ !*

ALL BEAUTY, too, radiates from the Divine Fellowship ...

Indeed, from the mutual attraction

Alive in the heart of the Three who are One,

All creative harmonies radiate with clarity,

All, imaging the Face of the Beloved,

Allowing us to experience, IN Christ, the Beauty of the Divine.

And above, beyond, and through all ...

The womb of ALL LOVE

Is Divine Fellowship.

None loves but They,

All love as They love,

In Them, all love.

Together, They ARE Love

... Mystery's Fellowship .

1 Poem 784, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

2 Jn 14:23.

3 Jn 15:26.

“Let the Others’ Light Shine” ¹

*Each loving Divine Person,
... In an Eternal act of total giving ...
Glorifies the Other absolutely.
This bestowal of Glory
Is, at once, totally personal and wholly communal :
Not only does Each glorify the Other perfectly,
But Each IS glorified
Through the Other,
In the Other,
With the Other.*

*In this Communion of Glory,
In this Fellowship of Affirmation,
Each PERSONALLY IS –
Unfathomably, beautifully and boundlessly esteemed,
Luminous with the goodness of being utterly lovable, loved, and loving,
And radiant with limitless thankfulness
In the Triune Eucharist of Praise !*

*Each Person’s focus is only the Other Eternally ;
Each one’s purpose is to enhance the Other.*

*O Communion of Glory !
O Fellowship of Love !
O Trinity of Love, worthy of all praise !
Yours is a God burst of thanks
As ... Heart, within Heart within Heart ...
You choose to love Each Other, TOGETHER !*

*To this depthless Love, WE are summoned
– To move, and live, and grow,
To glorify each other
In You ...
Our one Fellowship of Communing and Peace.*

Eucharistic Ministry ¹

*Our Eucharistic ministry, a wholly graced one,
Is to gather the pain of relationships,
The pain of families, the pain of whole peoples,
And to carry it with Jesus, daily,
To Calvary upon the Altar.*

*There, in Him,
– Sharing sacramentally in His actual Paschal Mystery –
We keep-on-loving through the pain.*

*It is here, that we experience Abba's compassionate Love
Transforming the whole
... Inviting all hearts to CHANGE,
... Wishing good even upon the pain-causers,
... And welcoming all to experience being RE-VIVIFIED, IN Christ
– All those of open heart, as they are UPLIFTED in His Risen Person.*

*To do this, is to be graced with a spiritual childhood
... To be as open, and as simple as Abba's Child,
... To openly trust, like Abba's Child.
Thus, we become a child with the Childlikeness of Christ
– Guilelessly, accepting, HOLDING TOGETHER in simplicity
All SEEMING opposites ...
In ourselves, in our Church, in our world.
This is the specific grace of our Eucharistic ministry
... Drawing all seemingly contending realities and people
Into UNITY, IN Christ.*

Faith, Firing our Consciousness ¹

Dearest Abba, ²
Faith is gazing on You
With the deepest trust and confidence.
Faith in You lights up or understanding
And fires our consciousness ...
Letting us see with the mind of Christ
– Risen within all
Who live out the truth of His life,
Animated by Your Spirit of Love,
Because love is the ULTIMATE TRUTH.

¹ Poem 787, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, November 2006.

² This poem is used by the author as a Eucharistic prayer.

Author : This, it seems, is my penultimate poem in a series on what constitutes faith.

“I Love You, Abba” ¹

*I love You, Abba,
I Love You, IN, and AS Jesus Ascended.
I love You with His risen heart,
Filled with Your Spirit !*

*I love You, Abba,
WITH and FOR all
Who are gathered in Your Beloved.
I love You from the Cross
– Of our lives –
As You raise us tenderly, IN Christ, to Your heart,
Drawing us into Your Sublime Fellowship.*

¹ Poem 788, Year 8 Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, November 2006.

Note : This poem is used by the author as a Eucharistic prayer.

Enfleshed with Christ's Own Risen Flesh ¹

*WHILE, in this AGE OF GRACE,
We are hiddenly, yet truly enfleshed IN Christ ...
Then, in the time of the Parousia, through His Resurrection,
Jesus Ascended will OPENLY, EXTERIORLY, enflesh us
With His own Risen flesh !
Visibly IN-CORPORATED in Him, we will CONTINUE to live
As "members, one of another", ²
In Him, who "is our Resurrection and our Life" ³
—Physically, tangibly alive IN that Risen Person
Who, alone of humanity, is uplifted to the Father's Embrace. ⁴*

1 Poem 789, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, November 2006.

2 Eph 4:25.

3 Cf Jn 11:25.

4 Cf Jn 1:18 & Jn 14:6.

When God Is Present ¹

*For God to “become” present to us,
Is, for us – through graced awareness
... To keep on being drawn into,
... To continue to be gifted with,
God’s Presence.*

Every time God “APPEARS” in our lives ...

*Forgiveness follows,
And healing happens.*

With God’s Presence indwelling us ...

*Peace permeates our pain,
Grace gathers us together,
Fellowship fires our faith,
Love lavishes our lives,
And discipleship deepens !*

God

Allows us

To already experience

That Glorious Communion

Wherein ...

Distinction of Persons

Is also

Oneness in Fellowship !

God's Inviting Presence ¹

*God is Invitation ;
God's Presence forever invites our presence
... For God always seeks
To share the whole of Their Divine Reality with us.
Not to be present thus, to God,
Is to be absolutely impoverished in our deepest being.*

*With God Present, everything changes :
– Luminous Beauty deluges our universe,
And lights up the depths of our spirits !
– An open, responsive humanity allows itself
To be re-shaped, conformed, and transformed
By, and in ... the Divine Presence !
– God's Transformative Presence divinizes us ...
Communally as Church, and personally, deep within our spirits.
– These new personal and communal identities are wed together
In one human Person – Jesus, the Beloved of God !*

God's Inviting Presence is a Self-Gifting Presence

Giving ALL, to all who are open to receive.

They who decline this Invitation, deny their own open-ended nature,

Jettisoning their true identity – of openness to Divine fulfilment

... Thereby refusing the EMPOWERMENT of lives, centred on Love.

Indeed, the Divine Relationship, ON OFFER at the very heart of humanity,

Uplifts all our relationships, precisely, by DIVINIZING them !

Thus, to turn aside this Invitation of Abba, Jesus, and Their Spirit

Is to eke our lives, in the shadowland of a godless unreality,

... Jadedly and compulsively chasing happiness,

–Instead of SURRENDERING to its

Enrapturing Fellowship !

While the pursuit of power, pleasure, and possessions,

Compulses our very bodies, and obsesses our personalities ...

Contrari-wise, loving others with an open heart,

Draws us into the COMPANY of Abba, Jesus, and Their Spirit,

And lets happiness blossom Eternally.

Thus, when we sacrifice ourselves for others,

–Even as the endless, driven pursuit of electronic relevance, and connectedness,

Rings hollow –

Our acquiescence to God's Invitational PASCHAL Presence

Generates a Divine inclusiveness WITHIN us,

... Enabling us to embrace an 'earth-full' of hearts

–IN our Beloved Ascended Brother, Jesus.

Be the Beloved, for Us ¹

Jesus,
Living in us,
As You live in Abba,
Ever ENABLE US –
To receive ourselves from You,
To give ourselves to You,
To identify ourselves AS You
... Welcoming Abba's Ascensional Embrace
Of our "New Humanity" in You ! ²

O sensitive heart of Jesus Ascended,
Be ever RECEPTIVE, for us –
To Abba's Breathing His Spirit,
To His Spirit's murmurings, within,
To Abba's gentle words of prompting,
To His Spirit's tender invitations
... Often offered through OUR emotions.

For ever welcome, for us, Love's Enrapture –
Thrilling to the warmth of Abba's Embrace,
Delighting in His caresses
Bedazzled in mind ... alight with His Presence !
Joying in His Spirit, fired by His Spirit !
AT HOME within the Fellowship of Peace.

*For ever express our love TO Abba –
Sighing our sighs ...
Drawing down His compassion upon us,
Glorifying, within us, the wonders of His Grace !
Be Eucharist FOR US – a sacrifice of praise to Him,
Releasing within us, His Spirit of Freedom
... That Spirit who searches the loving depths of God, ³
So we no longer hunger for,
But surrender now, in You, to Abba's Kiss of Peace.
Yes, for ever be Abba's Beloved, for us !*

1 Poem 792, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, December 2006.

2 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.)

3 Cf 1Cor 2:11.

Love Become Man ¹

*O Spirit,
We receive, with love,
What Love longs to give ;
We return, with love,
What Love longs to receive :
Love – become – man.*

*O Spirit,
Draw us, in His humanity,
Into Love's Embrace.*

¹ Poem 793, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Gold Coast holidays, January 2007.

One Single Existence ¹

Abba, receive our heartfelt gratitude ...

Abba, thank You for BODYING Your Love to us

Through Jesus, Your loving Son

... Our brother !

Thank You for drawing us,

In Jesus Ascended,

Into Your Divine Family

... Continually renewing us, with Your Love !

In thus EMBODYING our lives within the Ascended Jesus,

We pray that You REMOVE

All traces of our remnant SELVES

–Those limiting mindsets, sinful psychic excuses,

Negative cellular memories and impulses

... All those seedlings of old self-will

Still sprouting within our spirits –

All that be-devils our devotedness to You, Abba !

O Abba ! Absorb these remnant selves wholly,

Within the radiant EASTER SELF of Your Beloved

... Transforming each of us utterly

So that my “I” becomes His,

And there’s ONLY Christ’s Self, animating my choices ...

So that “I” becomes “We” IN, and WITH Him !

– So that we are completely joined in a single existence !

Thus, AS Him –

We gaze on Your loveliness WITH His mind,

Lovingly embracing You WITH His heart,

Communing with You WITH His spirit,

... Together, en-Spirited in Your peace .

(St Patrick's) Love for Enemies ¹

Abba,

As with St. Patrick, grace us –

With a change-of-heart-that-transforms,

With a change of heart that forgives one's oppressors,

With a change of heart that ultimately embraces one's tormentors,

With a change of heart that seeks to reconcile conflicting personalities

... By offering to share one's own Christ-centred identity .

Following his enslavement, in Ireland, as a sixteen year old

– Disoriented, depressed, but slowly being opened to GRACE –

Patrick escaped to his home in a recently de-Romanized Britain,

As a relieved, wiser, and decidedly more compassionate twenty two year old

... And, with a heart, readied by GRACE, to forgive.

Patrick's voluntary ultimate return to a tribalized Ireland,

–As a bishop-missionary, some twenty years later –

Was, by any measure, extraordinary, and very courageous.

His FAITH, forged originally by the six years of his slave-shepherd's solitude

– By an outcast's deep trust in prayer –

Was deepened by twenty years of priestly dedication in Gaul and Britain

... With its pastoral self-sacrifice ad self-surrender.

Yet, PATRICK'S FAITH, grounded in humility and Christlike, open-heartedness,

Was to be utterly transformed in an Irish crucible

Of a further thirty years of missionary toil, rejection and suffering .

*As was to become subsequently OBVIOUS ... as the decades and centuries rolled by,
Patrick's faith was transformed into a luminous zeal,
Into a radical consciousness of Christ's Presence,
And into a faith-that-saves !
Indeed, their servant-leader, Patrick was laid to rest in the midst
Of his DIVINELY-ADOPTED people
... Knowing that the reality of Jesus' key Good News command
– "To love your enemy" –
Can truly have a cascading, vitalizing effect
On the faith-life of many thousands of others.*

Becoming Eucharist ¹

Eucharist is

The Divine Fellowship's feast of self-sacrificial friendship

Co-experienced by us ...

As the Paschal journey – the loving union

Of the hearts of humanity with the heart of God.

In readying us for Eucharist,

Abba wants us to focus on

The ASCENSIONAL EMBRACE of His Beloved's humanity

Within the heart of God !

This loving communion of the Divine with the human

This unfolding ...

Of Abba's yearnings to gather us to Himself,

And of our own deep homecoming longings,

Is the template

For all that is at the heart of Eucharist.

In a word, Eucharist celebrates that Paschal Reunion of God with humanity

– That Ascension of Humanity to the loving arms of God !

Thus as Eucharist BEGINS ...

Our sense of Abba's Face being unveiled for us

– Reflected on the suffering Face of His Beautiful Son –

Shocks us with its wondrous intimacy !

At the same time, His Presence ALERTS us –

To our own stark sinfulness,

To our utter inadequacy,

And to our isolating individualism.

Yet, as our heads and eyes lower in humble response,

We feel our face being cupped and raised

Within Your tender hands, Abba,

As You whisper ...

“Come as you are, THAT'S how I love you.” ²

Thus trust floods our Paschaed hearts,

As Your loving forgiveness, Abba,

Opens us to Your Fellowship's revealed wisdom

... Readying us for the entry of Your Word

Into our lives.

Though not sensed in any specific way ...

Your Word illuminates our spirit, rousing our consciousness,

Such that, Christ's own consciousness

Suffuses ours,

Embedding Your own loving Fatherly wisdom

Deep within ours.

*Enticed by this proclaiming of Your Dream for us,
Drawn by Your Son's inspired example,
And enabled by Your Spirit, to respond to this Word of Life,
We are challenged by this Spirit of Transformation,
To be prepared to be transformed !*

*Next, as our earthen gifts of bread and wine are prepared,
Jesus' Passover Spirit communes with ours,
To create the CAPACITY within our hearts
For us, to become Eucharist in Him !
Your Sanctifying Spirit eagerly readies us,
Preparing us AS AN OFFERING, within Jesus our brother !
Soon to be set aside as the bread of holocaust ... for us,
And poured out as the wine of sacrifice ... for us !*

*Then, led into Your Holy of Holies, in Him,
We are INCORPORATED by Your Spirit of Transcendence, Abba,
Within the very PERSON of our victim-brother,
Preparatory to being sacrificed-with-Him.
In this Sacrifice ... in this Consecration,
Our common humanity is consummated
As the fragrant sacrifice of God, to God
... Offered thus, on the ALTAR of our own woundedness,
... All, on the ALTAR of Christ's own wounded BODY.*

This Offering is a wedding Abba
... Of Your All-inclusive, Divine Desire for union
... With humanity's chosen surrender in Jesus.
Abba, through Your eager, loving, Easter ACCEPTANCE of our-offering-in-Jesus
This ACCEPTANCE radiates through the cosmos –
Glorifying the FREEDOM of Your Love !
Glorifying our surrender to You !
Wondrously witnessing also to the freeing ACCEPTANCE of Your Beloved
AS OUR sacrifice !

In this Eucharistic sacrifice, of all that we ARE,
We receive all that we ARE TO BE, in Christ Risen !
We are not simply 'sprinkled'
With the Eucharistic blood of the Pierced One
– As it were, on our lips –
Bonding us together
As a covenanted people, a sacrificial people
... A people of God's very own Blood !

No ! Infinitely more than that –
We are en-peopled as ONE PERSON
We are en-personed with ONE IDENTITY
... People so seamlessly IN-CORPORATED AS ONE,
That the Paschal Covenant Blood of the Ascended Christ
Courses through each of our actual graced bodies
– Pulsing the Life of God
Through each of our spiritual arteries !

Abba,

*Only thus, Eucharistically, are we enabled to be,
And accepted as, Your Easter Beloved !
... And we become so, FULLY, by being UPLIFTED
Within the ONE CIRCLE of Divine Fellowship !*

Therein, we are graced to share in Christ's Ascension :

*Being swept up into Your arms, Abba,
–Drawn into the very heart of God !*

*Thus, within Eucharist,
As we experience the Enrapture of Ascension :
The Promised Gift of union becomes ours !³
The Spirit of Union deluges our being !*

*So as we, within this Mystery of Eucharist,
Voice our "Great Amen" and "Our Father"
To all this ...*

We CELEBRATE it as a COMMUNION OF HEARTS !

We rejoice, within Christ's fellowship with You, Abba and Spirit !

We rejoice with Christ's utter empathy with each of His brothers and sisters !

We LIVE Christ's Life, and He LIVES ours !

*We become the Eucharist of God's Beloved,
And You, Abba, IN Him become "all in all"!⁴*

Thus, ALL become Eucharist !

1 Poem 796, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Gold Coast holidays, January 2007.

2 Hymn Come As You Are, _D Browne.

3 Acts 2:33

4 Cf. Eph 4:6

Thirsting for Abba's Presence ¹ *

O Spirit, in Mary ...
Following Calvary,
O Spirit of Easter Dawning,
Spirit who enlivens,
Move me – to thirst for, to long for ...
Abba's Presence,
Alive in the Risen Jesus
–FOR OTHERS !

1 Poem 797, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin* Community, Brisbane, February 2007.

Note : Used by the author as a prayer at Eucharist.

*The old Woolloowin house that I had lived in, to December 2002, had been demolished, and a new community house built by 2006. I returned there, as originally intended, in January 2007.

Hand in Hand ¹

“Jesus took the blind man BY THE HAND

And LED HIM outside the village.”

Mk 8:23

Now, when You take our hand, Jesus

Fears and confusion melt away ;

Feelings of aloneness ...

Disappear with Your touch

–Especially, with Your Risen touch, through Eucharist.

Led by You

... Love’s own Paschal Child ...

Abba’s arms open eagerly to Your Presence

... Sweeping us up into Your Ascension’s Embrace !

Cradled close,

Cheek warming cheek,

Abba’s Breathing draws us gently

Into the rhythm of His Spirit of Peace ...

Abba’s eyes are alive with love for You Jesus

As – IN YOU, IN HIS EMBRACE – our heartbeats

Become one with His

... Joying in the Fellowship, that IS His Spirit !

*Here, our eyes light up,
Alive with His Love !
Yes, in You, every heart is a pilgrim,
... Yearning, until our homcoming hearts
Are STILLED ... coming to REST,
Within Your Loving Father's Deep Embrace,
Within the Silence of the Fullness of Life .*

To Live Is to Love ¹

*While true love is always life-giving,
Life's only PURPOSE ... is to love.*

*This is not only the NATURE of love and life
But for You, Ascended Jesus,
Who ARE both Life and Love,
This Truth ensbrates
Your Father's WILL-FOR-US ... in You.*

*Yet, one cannot deepen one's loving
Without suffering.
You showed us this, with Divine clarity
... Dying
For love of us !*

*O Calvary's Jesus,
In this, Your quest for our hearts,
It was Your Loving Father's will
... That You "OUT-LOVE" sin !
And "OUT-LIVE" death !*

*Jesus, while Abba's will is ALWAYS to love,
– Even as sin and suffering afflict our lives –
Our hearts' perfect 'AMEN' to His will for us,
Is Your SURRENDER OF YOUR LIFE to Him !*

*Calvary sees sin and suffering
LOSE THEIR POWER to cast shadows over our hearts,
Because THEY simply fade away in Your Luminous Presence
... A Presence fully, radiantly revealed,
In Your Ascended Person
... OUR TRUE HOME through grace !*

Folio Forty-One

Folio Forty-One

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In the Faith of Peter ¹

Abba,

One person's faith

Cannot exist in isolation.

My' faith is always something I express

As 'One-of-the many'.

Faith is always an experience

Of the faith of Your Church !

It is always given its Christian character

By the BODY of Christ

– “Members one of another”, ²

And necessarily, shares its CORPORATE identity, in Christ.

When one's faith wavers,

It is the faith of Mother Church

That supports us – acting FOR us ;

When one's faith is strong,

It is but a fuller expression of the Church's faith,

Working through an open heart.

Indeed, “it shows how faith leads to faith” ³

... The faith of one, bolstering the faith

Of various, often unknown, others !

Yet, in the paradox that is the Reign of God,

*The Body's own faith,
The faith of the Church itself, RESTS
On the faith of ONE person – PETER'S!
And Peter's faith ...?
"It was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you,
But my Father in heaven".⁴*

*Abba,
That You have BUILT Your Church
– GATHERING us together, as Your People –
On the rock of Peter's confession of faith,
IS A MYSTERY of Your Love
... For which we lavish You with the most heartfelt thanks !*

*Abba,
That the faith of Christ's Bride, the Church,
Is so utterly dependent on the faith it inherits from Peter
With all his frailties and limitations –
Is TRULY HUMBLING !
All this is a mirror of that Divine humility,
Wherein God's initial home among us,
Was but one human cell !
Abba, how wonderfully and deeply
You treasure our humanity !
And how mysteriously,
You INCARNATE Your Paschal love,
In the simplest processes of our history !*

Ultimately, ours is the faith of a fisherman

... Given EXPRESSION

In the self-same faith of today's Pope.

Even Mary's faith

– The faith of the Icon of the Church itself –

Is given voice and words

THROUGH Peter's confession of faith

... A declaration now forever OURS :

“You are the Beloved the Chosen One

The Son of the Living God !”⁵

Abba,

May our communion of faith

– Animated by Peter's faith –

“Strengthen” all of us, his brothers and sisters, in Fellowship⁶

Unifying us in Your peace :

“One Body, one Spirit ... one Lord, one FAITH !”⁷

1 Poem 800, Marian Valley Retreat, Day 2, February 2007. (February 22nd:The Chair of St Peter)

2 Rom 12:5 (N.R.S.V)

3 Rom 1:1

4 Mt 16:17

5 Cf. Mt 16:16

6 Lk 22:32

7 Eph 4:4, 5

To Imagine, in Christ, Is to Create ¹

*The way we see ourselves
Is the way we become ourselves :
Imagery sculpts our being !
But such human 'seeing' is often
Unfocused, unintegrated, or wilfully unbalanced ...
And so, our self-knowledge can be sketchy and unsatisfying.
Others can supply extra useful perspectives for us,
But still, our quest for a fuller self-knowledge remains elusive,
With our lives unfulfilled, or shallow, or lacking direction.
Simply, our 'SEEING' is essentially, inadequate.*

*Because many of us deeply yearn to become
Who we are, in GOD'S sight,
We also need to learn to see ourselves
As God sees us –
That is, WITHIN the Fellowship of the Divine.
This is a PURE GIFT that we can but await, with patience
... With trusting, faith-filled hope.*

*Thus, our graced destiny ... our deepest grace ...
Is to ALLOW God
To gaze into our heart's eyes.
Abba's love-filled contemplation of us,
His doting Fatherly gaze,*

Is life-bestowing, and, literally creative

–Creative of WHO WE'LL BE !

And who can we become

... But Jesus,

Abba's OWN Beloved ?

For Abba has eyes

ONLY for His favoured Son :

It is IN His Image

– A reflection of Abba's own –

That we are sculpted

... With the tender, affectionate Hands

Of our loving, indulgent Father.

We also need to RETURN Abba's lingering gaze,

But only WITH the Beloved's gaze

... With our spirit coming gently to rest

And at peace with, who we are, in Christ ...

Gazing on Your Face of Love, Abba.

Our earthly life

Needs always to be a living hologram

Of this MUTUAL GAZING

– The real and immediate source

Of our true identity, and transformed Paschal consciousness.

Yet within the SUCCESSIVE reality of TIME,

*This identity and consciousness
Is always an interplay of influences
From our past, present and future.*

Indeed, to mature – to have our destiny realized in God’s eyes – we NEED

... With the enabling grace of the Spirit ...

To RE-IMAGE from whom we CAME,

To IMAGE who we are NOW,

And to IMAGINE who we are TO BE.

Our enabling ICON for each, needs to be –‘JESUS ASCENDED’

... At home, in the arms of Abba !

For the PAST ...

To REMEMBER, is to call to mind the IMAGE

Of the Easter Beloved, who first

LIT UP OUR SPIRITS

... For our heavenly homecoming journey.

To remember is also to breathe thanks ...

And because, such “gratitude is the memory of the heart”,²

Our hearts need to focus always, on Him

To whom we BELONG

... For home, is where the heart is !

For the PRESENT ...

Our Paschal identity and consciousness

Delight in communing

With our Easter Beloved ...

Present in everyone and in everything we meet.

Thus, we are being DRAWN into ever deeper union

–With those in whom we behold His Presence

–And with Abba, who fathers us all, IN His Beloved.

For the FUTURE ...

Our Paschal identity and consciousness

Allow us to IMAGINE

Who we are to be, IN Christ Ascended !

He is that enlivening and enabling Image, FOR ALL who live in Him

–The Eternal Template for all humanity !

To thus imagine ourselves in Christ,

Is to have our desires empowered.

It is to share in Christ's OWN CREATIVE IMPULSE

Especially in our RELATIONSHIPS.

Such 'enabling' creativity, happens only IN the Beloved,

Never IMPERSONALLY.

Jesus Ascended is that TRANSFORMATIVE HUMAN BEING,

That wondrous Other, IN whom we come to EXPERIENCE

How we become our true selves

... THROUGH others, with others, and ultimately, IN others !

This REMEMBERING, IMAGING, and IMAGINING

Does not come in one mutual gazing, one communing !
While of its nature, wholistic,
This grace of ‘contemplation’ wondrously, is a PROCESS
–Of simplifying, of being led ever more deeply,
–Of being drawn, open-endedly into an ever-arising Sunrise.
Our images of the God of Love arrive, through GRACE,
Successively, accumulatively ...
Yet still ... breath-takingly, overwhelmingly ...
And always ... always as sheer GIFTS
–To the delight of Christ’s Ever-Creative Spirit !

This delighting Spirit

Creatively weds human images,

With every word

That comes from God !

We cannot come alive

Within God’s Love,

Without Divine words

And earth-born images.

Both come together ...

In Jesus Ascended,

The Son of earth and heaven !

WE come together, in Him,

In His “new humanity”... ³

As “an altogether new creature”, ⁴

For, “in Him is a new creation”,⁵

In whom “all has become new !”⁶

This divinely-human word-imagery of the Spirit

Gently, slowly, suffuses our consciousness :

... Re-configuring our minds,

“Renewing us by a spiritual revolution”,⁷

... En-Spiriting our consciousness,

As Christ’s own,

... Until, resting in peaceful wonder,

Within Abba’s gaze of Love,

We behold ALL , IN Christ !

Thus we become, ever more one, with whom-we-see

... Delighting in sharing Abba’s REFLECTION, in Christ.

All the while, we are being drawn into the eyes of Goodness, Luminous with Love !

1 Poem 801, Marian Valley Retreat, Day 3, February 2007.

2 St Mary of the Cross McKillop 3 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 4 Gal 6:15

5 2Cor 5:17a (N.R.S.V.) 6 2Cor 5:17b (N.R.S.V.) 7 Eph 4:23

Love Keeps On Loving ¹

Love keeps on loving
... *For Love knows only to love !*

Love always loves
... *For Love is Eternity !*

Alive in Christ,
We're alive in TIME –
Yet glorying in ETERNITY
... *An ETERNITY OF LOVE !*

¹ Poem 802, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry. Woolloowin Community, March 2007.

To Live Vowed Religious Life ¹

*To live vowed religious life ...
Is to be consecrated, in the Holy One,
Uplifted on the altar of the Cross,
To become one with the Crucified One,
Sacrificially available
... So others' lives
Can be regenerated with their own,
Through the Spirit of Jesus Risen ;
And then in the flowering and fruiting of this sacrifice,
To be again uplifted
—Incorporated within a whole community of spirits reborn —
Within the Arms of Divine Intimacy
... All in Jesus Ascended !*

¹ Poem 803, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, March 2007.

Light Circulating through the Body ¹

*“Anything exposed by the LIGHT will be illuminated,
And anything illuminated, TURNS INTO LIGHT.” (Eph 5:13)*

We cannot choose what we do not know ...

So, how we ‘IMAGE OURSELVE’S’

Either limits, or liberates –

Our openness, and giftedness to others,

... Within the Kinship of God .

As “members, one of another”, ²

In the one Person of our Easter Beloved,

Nurtured by His self-same glorified Precious Blood,

We are AS A PURE PASCHAL LIGHT to each other

... The Beloved’s risen, ascended BLOOD becoming AS LIGHT for us :

The Blood that lights up our persons, being that of Christ !

This Precious Glorified Blood

Fires our consciousness,

Filling our hearts with LIGHT

– Hearts that themselves become FONTS OF LIGHT

Circulating LIGHT through the BODY

... That is BOTH Christ’s, and ours !

*This LIGHT nurtures, transforms each glittering cell of our being
... As we “become an altogether new creature”, IN Christ! ³*

*This transcending brilliance of the Divine
Shines ALIVE also, through our imagination,
... Setting it pulse with an elevated creativity!*

Hidden from worldly spirits,

It suffuses our every emotion ...

Making our feelings TRANSLUCENT, like our Beloved's.

Irradiating our very wills with the glory of humility,

It conforms us to Christ's will, in the moment of His death.

We become, IN Christ, AS LIGHT to each other,

With varying degrees of radiance

... Luminescing through each other, IN Christ.

Communally ONE, we retain our personal distinctiveness,

Ever being love-lit, by that Transcendent Light

—THE SPIRIT, who lights up all God-seeking hearts!

This LIGHT is our GIFT to each other

—IN Him, who is “the Light of the world”! ⁴

*En-Spirited with His Joyful LIGHT,
We become welcoming GOOD NEWS LIGHT
To “those who live in darkness”⁵
... Drawing them to Him, who is “the light of life”!⁶
This ultimately, allows them to share
That wondrous Paschal Light
... Coursing through the arteries of an uplifted humanity ...
Which so lights up the Face of our Loving Father !*

1 Poem 804, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Lent, March 2007.

2 Eph 4:25 (N.A.B.)

3 Gal 6:1

4 Jn 8:12

5 Lk 2:79

6 Jn 8:12

Destiny Realized ... Yet Beckoning ¹

Abba's Reign of Love ...

*ALREADY fully enraptures our lives,
But is NOT YET fully realized ins us ;*

Abba's Kinship of Love ...

*Is, AT ONCE, Holy and Pure,
But is ALWAYS IN NEED of reformation ;*

Abba's People, IN Christ,

*Through grace GAZE FULLY into the heart of Love,
But STILL SEE PARTIALLY "as through a glass, darkly." ²*

At all times, through the light of grace ... THE LIGHT OF GLORY concealed ...

We are ONE in God's Fellowship

And THREE in our RELATIONSHIPS

To God who is Lover !

To God who is Beloved !

To God who is Love !

Joy Blossoming into Peace ¹

*As Love enfolds us ...
Tenderly drawing us to Their heart,
Their delight in us
Births JOY within our hearts
... As the Spirit "overshadows" us. ²*

*And as summer follows spring,
And as fruit follows blossom,
PEACE suffuses our whole being,
And settles gently, in our spirit's depths.*

*Yet, being Love's COMMUNION GIFT,
Peace sends forth JOY, again, as its herald
... Opening further hearts, to welcome Love.*

*Yet, we do not give this peace AWAY
... Because, it is not only undiminished,*

But ENHANCED

Within us,

*As it passes into other hearts
—Because, we possess it TOGETHER !*

1 Poem 806, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 1.

2 Lk 1:35 (N.R.S.V.)

Thirsting for Abba ¹

To me, it was given ²
That my life, henceforth,
Would be one of suffering,
Of Gospel suffering ;
In particular,
The suffering of LONGING ...
Of thirsting for Abba
– In OTHERS,
And the song I'm TO LIVE
Is this ...

“Our hearts are bursting
Our spirits, thirsting
To share Your Love ! ³
All that WE ARE ...
Thirst for You, Abba
... To gaze on You, Christ Jesus,
In Your SANCTUARY
– There, to behold Your Glory !”

1 Poem 807, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 2.

2 “Given”, at Eucharist, Feast of St Joseph.

3 A quote from my own poem – song, Days of Sunshine, Nights of Love, Poem 354.

What Absolute Abandon ¹

*Abba loves us with utter passion,
With absolute abandon ...
Outpouring ALL His Divine Goodness,
Every conceivable delight
Of His Divine Imagination –
On US who are gathered together in His Beloved !
Every fibre of our being,
Every spiritual chord,
Vibrates to Abba's vivifying touch !
And every yearning cell of ours
Resonates, and keeps on resonating in hope ...
To receive Love's Word !*

*Abba wants to possess us,
And to be possessed by us, IN Christ,
And is ecstatic with joy
As His Spirit suffuses ours !
Abba is so enraptured with us,
That He transcends His Divine Self,
Abandoning all He IS
... In total trust,
In utter bliss ...
To us,
THE BELOVED OF HIS HEART !*

O Dearest Abba ! O Passionate God !

Most delightful of lovers !

Why ever do we look elsewhere ?

Why ever focus our eyes on another ?

– You, are Love ENTIRE !

Fore-give ¹

TAKE from others

... And the mainstay of your life

Will be taken from you.

KEEP God's gifts to yourself

... And God will keep His Face

From you.

"GIVE, and a full measure will be given to you :

Shaken together, pressed down and overflowing." ²

"FORE-GIVE, and you will be fore-given",

For God gives to those who hate Him,

Loving love into their hearts.

Do likewise : give FIRST !

¹ Poem 809, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 3.

² Lk 6:38

³ Cf Mt 6:14

Contemplative ¹

*All contemplatives need to nurture
A Holy Saturday spirit
– Watching, waiting, wishing,
In silence, in stillness, and in solitude –
For Easter’s revivifying Fellowship
To rise in our hearts.*

*While bearing the imprints of Calvary’s Cross,
Our Paschal hearts yearningly await
The enfolding of Abba’s Embrace
... The fragrance of Divine Intimacy.*

*Faith watches in silence ...
Hope waits in stillness ...
Love wishes in solitude ...
– To be enveloped
By the Ascended Jesus’ Gift, of the Spirit.*

*We long for this Paschal Spirit to draw us –
Into the cosmic mind of Christ,
Into His ever inclusive heart,
And into His missionary spirit
... “Go, make disciples of all peoples !” ²*

1 Poem 810, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 3.

2 Mt 28:19

The Christening of Our Self-Imagery ¹

Unlike words ... IMAGERY, for us
Occupies that space
Midway between mind and body
... Owing something to each.
Thus our human images,
Even while registering the imprint of our minds
They equally respond to, or are transformed, enhanced, modulated by,
An exotic mix of cerebral CHEMICALS !
This brain cocktail
Of adrenaline, dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin,
Can directly change our behaviour, and sculpt our destinies,
And importantly DO so, by co-impacting on our self-imagery
... Chemically !
Furthermore, our image metamorphoses and responds
To the IMPRESS of our FAITH and thereby
... To God's Presence within ...
—Thus CHRISTENING them !

Thus, our Christened imagery, unlike God's words to us :

---- Can be charged with adrenaline

ENTHUSIASMING US with the wonder of our brother Jesus WITHIN !

---- Can be buoyed up with dopamine

DELIGHTING US with the pleasure of giving, of embracing,

And of being tenderly forgiven ;

---- Can be modulated with serotonin

COLLECTING, calming, and coordinating our emotions

Allowing them to HARMONIZE with the Spirit of Concord ;

---- Can be enhanced with oxytocin

SUSTAINING OUR BONDING AND NURTURING ... long term,

Affirming our communion with the God of Relationships.

Contrarivise, human imagery can be co-opted to opposing purposes

... Whereby, we are –

Enticed by our lust,

Beguiled by our greed,

Dictated to, by our thirst for power and control,

And so, accumulatively BECOME :

De-energized by our laziness,

Depressed by our low self-esteem,

Debilitated by our irresponsibility,

Deluded by our deceptiveness,

And manipulated by our expansive egos !

Such an abuse of self-imagery
... Does not remain a SERVANT –
Of our transformation into Christ's perfect humanity,
Or of a humanity, ever more alive to the Divine
... But can quickly become a SLAVE –
Of self-seeking emotions, open to becoming addictive,
Of self-effort, feeding off a spurious independence of spirit
– Isolating us from reliance on God, and on others,
– Spurning the COMMUNION, arising from Christened self-imagery.

Yet ... resurrected by GRACE, uplifted by LOVE,
Our sin-sullied self-imagery
Can be transformed,
Graced sacrifice ... by graced sacrifice ...
Christlike choice ... by Christlike choice ...
Into the Living Self-Image of Abba, CHIRST,
Into a life lived IN our own Easter Beloved, WHO IS
... Abba's openness TO US
... And our openness TO Abba !

Your Creative Utterance ¹

In Hebrew, to SPEAK is to CREATE : ²

Your Word, Abba, is Your creative action !

Your speaking-to-us,

Your Word-to-us,

Creates a humanity in Your Image !

As Your Word become flesh,

Your creative action is embodied, amongst us !

And, for those who receive this Word, in faith,

Your creative Paschal action is embodied, WITHIN them

... And they embodied IN Him

– The Risen and Ascended EXPRESSION

Of who You are, Abba !

Indeed, Your Word having been thus uttered ETERNALLY

To us ...

“Shall not return to You empty,

But shall ACCOMPLISH

That which You purpose,

And SUCCEED in the thing

For which You sent it !” ³

O Abba ! How wondrous is Your Word

Among, and within us !

1 Poem 812, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Holy Week, April 2007.

2 They are the same word, in Hebrew.

3 Is 55:11

NOTE: See also allied Poem 631.

O God of Desire ¹

O God of Desire within us
– ‘*The thirst and the quenching,*
The hunger and the satisfaction’ – ²
Transform our famished yearning for You
Into Your Beloved’s-for-others.

Most Beautiful Love,
Open us, to thirst as You thirst.
Fill us ! Quench us ! Deluge us with Yourself !
... As we drink in Your words,
And feast on Your sweet will !

Beauty, Most Lovable,
Open us, to long with Your longing,
So we may belong as You belong
– *Within Your luminous Fellowship*
... Where all received, is given.

*Love, Most Beautiful,
Open us, open our famished hearts,
To yearn, for Your Loveliness !
Fill us ! Delight us ! Lavish us with Your Presence !
... So we may become, to You
What You are, to us –
Lovably human !
Lovably divine !
And never more lovable, as on Your Cross !*

1 Poem 813, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Holy Week, April 2007.

2 This couplet, anonymous author.

NOTE: This poem as prayed by the author, at Eucharist.

Heart-Stricken ¹

*In the pain-filled steps of Love's own Son,
Those who sacrifice themselves for others
In their torturous journey up Calvary's hill,
ARE,
Like Jesus –
Tainted, by envy, gossip or spite
Scourged, by being devalued or deceived
Weighed down, by rejection, abuse, or bullying
Wounded, by inequality, injustice, or exploitation
Nailed, by violence, betrayal, or abandonment
Pierced, by despair, hopelessness or low self-worth
Crucified, by lack of love or hatred.*

*Only someone-NOT-God,
Would be unmoved !*

*Heart-stricken,
Abba waits
... Lovingly ...
For the dawn
Of their Easter morn*

The Openness of the Human Spirit ¹

A spirit is one OPEN to Mystery ... to Love ... to God.

A spirit's essence is to ABIDE WITHIN all other spirits

... Within God's Spirit.

What restricts a spirit's openness

Is NOT, 'being embodied',

But 'being enfleshed' by an insinuating worldliness.

Thus, it is the Easter Spirit of Holiness

Who, in re-vivifying Jesus with His body,

En-Spirits us, AS HIS BODY

... Freeing us to share in His victory over the world and sin.

Thus en-Spirited, and freed of the world's grip,

All spirits, IN Christ

– Who now “BELONG to each other” – ²

Are free to co-indwell each other,

To abide in love, within all other such spirits.

Thus, WITHIN the Spirit of God,

They present but one Face to Abba

... That of His Beloved Easter Jesus

– Sharing in HIS utter openness

To the Mystery of Love

Alive in Abba !

1 Poem 815, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Holy Week, April 2007.

2 Rom 12:5

On the Periphery of Ourselves ¹

Sin is self-marginalization :

Seduced, we increasingly live on the periphery of ourselves;

Constantly distracted, we lose focus of our 'centre'

And increasingly decline to journey INWARDS.

As we highlight to others – the pace, the novelty, the glamour

Of our external pursuits,

More and more we neglect

... The call of Silence, the voice of Stillness, within.

As we increasingly indulge the senses,

And eagerly move from one sensual experience to the next,

We disconnect from Creative Reason, governing all,

And through fickleness, fail to engage our own spirit.

As our values become more relative, more 'relevant',

– Shaped by trends, human respect and sheer impulse –

We become unanchored ...

Adrift from our integrating centre or 'presence' within

... Be that FAITH or other core beliefs.

Thus sin, like its parent, Satan, is full of illusion

– Breeding mistrust, even mocking what is true and good in us.

The sin-tainted shadowland we move through

Like actors in some meaningless parody –

Hollows out our human spirit ...

Persuading us that self-transcendence is nonsense.

And if this is the 'fate' of one person – what of communal sin ?
Indeed, the 'ENTITLEMENT' effect – of communal greed, of a lust-permeated society,
Of the exploitive arrogance of the rich as a group,
Or of a racially dominant class ... can be terrifying !
What of communal sin's capacity to enmesh and entangle lives ?
Of societal and cultural half-truths that entice many
Into a world of prejudice and of unreality ?

Jesus' response ? "I am the light of the world : the way the truth and the life." ²

Following Him, imitating Him, letting Him live His Life in us
... Allows us to share His VICTORY over sin AND worldliness,
... Emboldens us to TRANSCEND ourselves :
To LIVE-FOR-OTHERS !

Calvary ENLIGHTENS us ...
Leading us to experience, with Jesus,
That suffering can ground us in reality,
And that His invitation to sacrificial love
... "Take up your cross daily,
And follow me" ³
Draws us to His Transforming Presence within,
And to the Fellowship of Love
–Alive in our hearts !
–Alive in all Easter communities !
–Alive in His Paschal Body, the Church !

1 Poem 816, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Good Friday, April 2007.

2 Jn 8:12 and Jn 14:6

3 Lk 9:23

Co-Thirster ¹

(JESUS:)

O God-seeking heart !

Thirsting brother-sister of mine !

“My choice withdrew you from the world”: ²

You are not to be OF this world, ³

Nor BELONG to it ! ⁴

I “send you INTO the world

As Abba has sent me into it ...” ⁵

Your being-in-the-world

Will be like my being-in-the-world,

And that of My Spirit ...

Whom “the world CANNOT ACCEPT,

Nor even SEE,

Much less recognize !” ⁶

Like me, CO-THRISTER for Abba,

The world will REJECT you !

And CRUCIFY you ! ⁷

You are thus to be IN the world,

But not OF it !

Fire your courage !

For, “I have overcome the world” ⁸

... Within my heart,

And, thus also, for “WHOEVER remains IN me !” ⁹

You too can share this ‘conquest’ ¹⁰

Of the world and sin !

And thus IN me, your life, even now,

Is ‘Eastered’ like Mine

–For Abba’s Embrace

By the Spirit of Glory !

1 Poem 817, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Easter Week, April 2007.

2 Jn 15:19 3 IBID 4 Jn 17:16 5 Cf Jn 17:18 6 Jn 14:17 7 Cf Jn 15:19-20

8 Jn 16:33 (N.A.B.) 9 Jn 15:5 10 Jn 16:33 (J.B.)

Transformative Tragedy ¹

*It has been said,
“We can feel a single life makes little difference ;
THAT is why, Christ gave us the CHURCH.” ²
The church can embrace ANY tragedy
Because it has the EUCHARIST
... Constantly re-enacting Christ’s wondrous Pasch.
In taking any tragedy to its heart,
The Church centers it within the Paschal Mystery
Thereby transforming it,
And being itself, IN ITS MEMBERS, transformed
... Not only in outlook
But in their IDENTITY – with the Paschal Jesus.*

*More specifically, it is Christ Himself who embraces the tragedy,
And all who are affected.
He draws all, who SO DESIRE, into His sacrificial Calvary experience,
So as to uplift, regenerate and re-empower, from within –
The very lives of the participants of the tragedy.
Thus, for these, who are OPEN TO TRANSFORMATION,
It is an Easter opportunity
To be embraced with the encompassing arms of His Church
... Even, if some know nothing
Of being thus enfolded, Eucharistically.*

1 Poem 818, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Eastertide, April 2007.

2 Unknown author, from LIVING FAITH booklet.

Embracing the New, in Christ ¹

To open to, and to embrace

The new

We need the faith of the CHURCH

... Visioning the new, with the mind of Christ ;

It is this FAITH

That , in transcending what has been,

INCORPORATES the new

Into the radical reality at the heart of the church ...

Namely, the transformative Ascended PERSON of Christ

... With His "Behold ! I make all things NEW !" ²

¹ Poem 819, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Eastertide, April 2007.

² Rev 21:5