

Folio Thirty-Five

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Alive to Each Other ¹

Christ sings, within our hearts,

Within His :

“Belong to Me

As I belong to you ;

So, together now,

We belong to our Abba-God.

By our living the love-life,

That our Abba-God

Lives within Me

We are now one in the Spirit !

We are, all of us,

ALIVE to each other,

IN each other !”

Among Those Who Love As One ¹

We cannot relate to God as Moses did :

No – the God whose gaze envelops us

Who communes with us

Is never found ALONE –

God is always found

Rejoicing AS Those-Who-Love-As-One :

Abba tenderly indwelling us,

Jesus compassionately embodying us,

Loyce joyously en-Spiriting us.

ABBA only ever beholds us TOGETHER

... Ensplendoured with the personal beauty of His Beloved.

He beholds our hearts

Luminescing with Christ's Spirit of joy

... As our lights are drawn, into the dazzling embrace of Light !

JESUS embodies us

Through Loyce's enlivening us TOGETHER

– Sons of the Resurrection, Daughters of the Ascension –

As Abba gently, tenderly, fathers us

AS HIS Beloved

– Our New Humanity's' CHAMPION ! ²

*LOYCE lovingly draws us into the One Embrace,
Into the Beloved's tender Paschal surrender,
Into His abandonment
To Abba's enveloping His heart
– One Surrender! One Enrapture! One Kiss!*

God is TOGETHERNESS ...

1. Poem 681, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2005.

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

Glorious in God's Sight ¹

*We, as individuals, do not gaze at God : we cannot ;
God beholds us, IN His Beloved.
Yet, as the Spirit draws us, into Christ's gaze of Paschal love,
Grace by grace, we become identified
With Christ's seeing, with the Ascended One's vision.*

*With His gazing, WE gaze –
Into Abba's own heart of goodness
... A God-burst of joy !
Contemplating Abba's beauty
... A God-burst of delight !
Envisioning the truth of Abba's Mystery
... Wherein All become One !*

*Thus graced,
A share of Abba's IN-SIGHT into hearts
... Becomes ours, IN Christ ;
And humanity's history of love for God reveals itself
In transcendent clarity
... At least, in our graced glimpses of Abba.*

*The long term fruit of such contemplative grace,
Is that, in seeing Abba, with Jesus' Paschal eyes,
We also can see WITH the eyes of our brothers and sisters
... Incorporated in Jesus Ascended.
With THEIR, and our own eyes of Love
We face Abba :
... Beholding His Wondrous Glory TOGETHER
... The Glory of Love also filling us, as "a new creation" in Christ ²
—Glorious in God's Sight !*

1 Poem 682, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2005.

2. 2 Cor. 5:17.

The Cloud's Fire ¹

"The Glory of Yahweh appeared, as a cloud." Ex 16:10

"I have come to light a fire upon the earth ;

how I wish the blaze were ignited !" Lk 12:49

O Spirit !

O Fiery Cloud of Love !

Open to the heart's touch,

Yet beyond the heart's compass ;

Alluring ... yet unpossessible,

Concealing, a Glory revealed ...

A Fire within : a Cloud without !

Yet Your Fire still encompasses us with its warmth

– Drawing us within Your Cloud's folds

Close ... felt ... giving ... intimate ...

Galvanizing our hearts, yet calming,

Startling, challenging us, yet consoling,

Confounding us, but deeply loving,

Overwhelming ... but wedded to us,

And, most wondrously,

WITHIN ...

One-with-us

... Igniting our every cell with joy !

Suffusing all with Love's warmth,

Permeating all with Love's peace.

Still, O Spirit,

It is Your Cloud that first enraptures us :

A Mystery, luminous and awesome,

That, in cloaking its own fiery core

And gloriously aglow ...

Removes Your Fire from our gaze.

To behold Your Fire itself

—The very heart of Love —

Is an especial gift of grace.

Such an infinite traverse

Into Love's unfathomable well of Boundless Goodness

Is beyond contemplative visioning,

Beyond the fruits of surrendering all ;

It is the Gift of Your Fire itself, O Spirit

— Being one with Jesus Ascended,

In His response

To Abba's ETERNAL KISS

... The heart of Divine Passion !

Eucharistic Homecoming ¹

*The map of the human heart
Is oriented Eucharistically :
All the lines of our nature converge
To focus on the One whose own heart
Was pierced for us –
His Sacrifice luminously centers our HEARTSCAPE.*

*The lifeblood of community consciousness
Coursing through our collective human heart –
Issues forth from the One
Who chose that this, His own lifeblood
Be “poured out for many” ... ²
All sacramentalized, FOR US, in the Eucharist.*

*God's Indwelling too, is a Eucharistic homecoming :
Our loving Abba makes His home in us
Only through the One
Whose Paschal journey is reproduced in us,
Through lives, SURRENDED in love.
As Father, Son and Spirit choose to live Their life within us,
Christ's Eucharist incorporates us within Their intimacy.*

*Contemplation too is a Eucharistic journey :
Through gazing on Love, IN Christ the Beloved,
... Such that 'the One becomes the other One' ...
We ceaselessly reproduce our Eucharistic Communion,
Living out our corporate identity AS Christ,
"Becoming members one of another" ³
Of the Ascended Jesus
Enraptured by a most open-hearted Father, in the Spirit !*

1 Poem 684, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, November 14th 2005.

NOTE: I sent this poem, in November 05, directly to the Pope, Benedict XVI, with this note: -

"Dear Holy Father, I am a contemplative in the active, Apostolic Congregation of Christian Brothers in Queensland, Australia. I deeply hope that my words below – the fruit, I believe, of the Year of the Eucharist, and of suffering – will be read by you PERSONALLY."

P.S. I received a brief reply before Christmas 05, in the Pope's hand.

2 Mt 26:28. 3 Rom 12:5.

The Symphony of Love ¹

*The symphony of God's love
Is mostly heard by us in a minor key ...
Typically, in some outdoor experience of NATURE, at its most awesome
... As we think 'This is truly inspiring and wonderful !'
Paradoxically, when we hear it, in its major key
– Played out in the lives of the faithful few, and often tragically –
We are only occasionally responsive to ITS grace,
That is, to its transformative depths, redemptive promise, and transcendent power.*

*Yet God's symphony resonates best
In simple, God-seeking hearts
... OPENED UP, IN THEIR NEED,
By the music of Divine compassion.*

*Indeed, our Abba-God chooses to HARMONIZE –
Not so much with the fervour of lips, full of praying
... but with the heart's silence
Not so much with hearts, full of energy for God
... but with ones, emptied of plans and expectations
Not so much with activity, 'spending oneself for the Mission'
... but with humbleness and stillness of spirit
Not so much with spirits, alive with challenges for others
... but with the solitude of an inclusive prayerful heart
Not so much with special times, that WE set aside for God
... but with the timelessness of moments of surprise
Not so much when we 'put ourselves into' the Presence of God,
... but rather, with open-hearted watching and waiting for God*

Not so much, with hearts passionate for just causes
... but with desert spirits, yearning for the God of Justice
Harmonizing –
Not so much with the day-time obviousness of God's gifts
... but with the night-time nearness of a God unsensed
Not so much with what WE know of God
... but with the shock of God's unknowability
Not so much where WE sense, God really is
... but with places unreachable, beyond 'our searching'
Not so much with what our GAZE lovingly yearns to behold
... but with Love's self-revelations, Love's own chosen symbols
Not so much with God's countless expressions of creativity
... but with THE Creator, Love's Eternal essence
... resonating within all, resounding beyond all
– GOD'S SYMPHONY OF LOVE.

Mystery's Seed, Growth, Fruit and Delight ¹

Growth, in all of nature,

Always

Begins from a centre

Then moves outwards :

Thus it is with Mystery.

As with the seed that unfolds, then buds, then branches ...

As with the ovum that divides, forms tissue, organs, then finger buds ...

So too, Mystery unfolds from Within to without.

Mystery first germinates within us, as a seed ... of Love ;

Then, rising out of the dark chill of our winters,

Eternal Mystery bud forths, into time,

Blossoming forth its glory-bloom ... Love.

Finally, there appears Mystery's infant fruit ... Love ;

Then, ripened blood-red by summer's travails,

Flushed full with the Sun's giftedness,

Its glow mottled by autumn sugars of grace ...

Mystery's matured fruit ... Love ...

Delights all, with its deliciousness.

Truly, Love is

... The seed of Mystery

... Growth within Mystery

... The graced fruit of Mystery

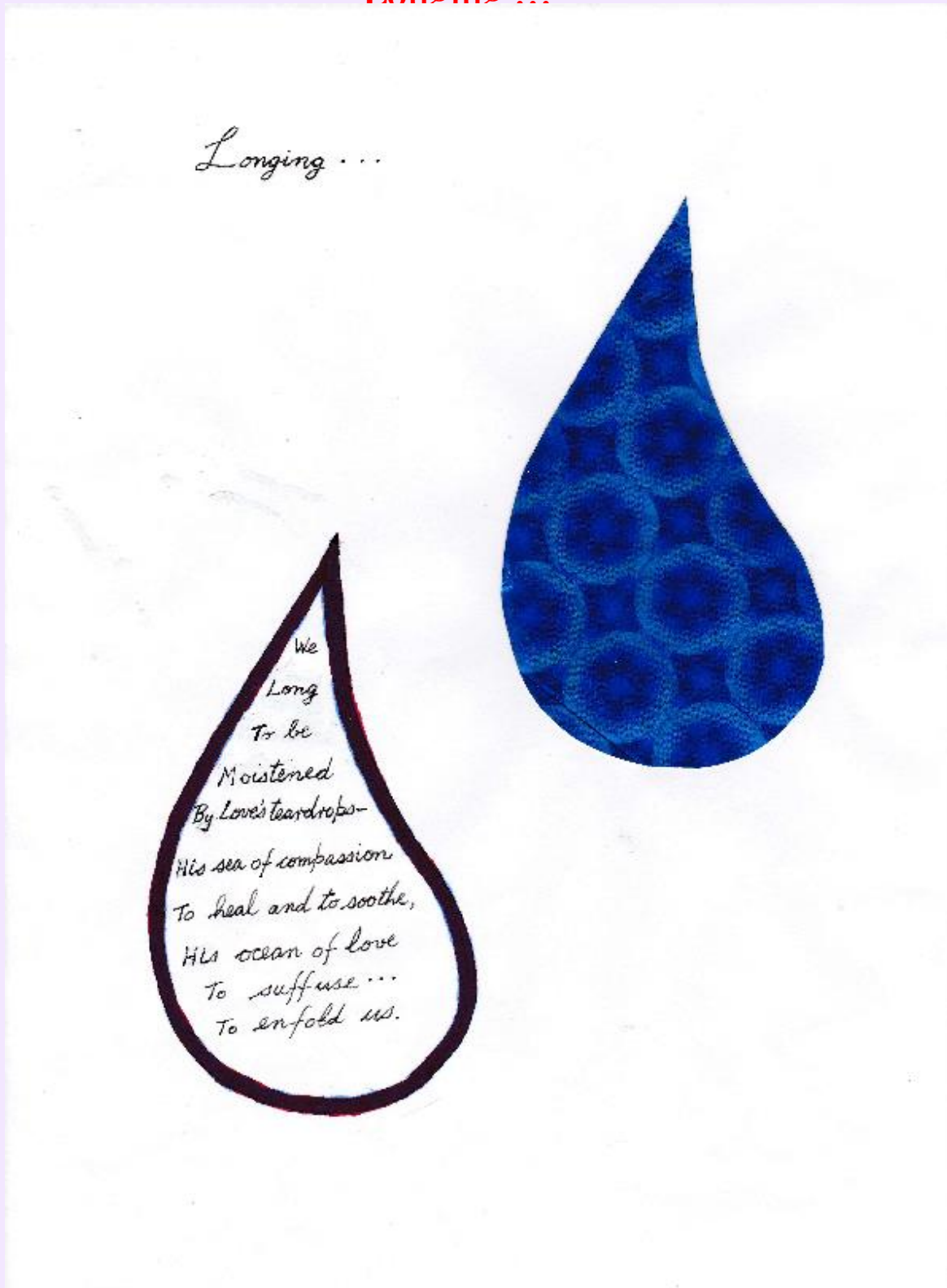
... And the Delight of Mystery.

1 Poem 686, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 1

NOTE: Yamba is a holiday and retirement town at the mouth of the Clarence River, New South Wales.

Sister Yvonne Parker was the facilitator, and is my spiritual director, for my annual retreats.

Longing ... 1



Longing ...

We
Long
To be
Moistened
By Love's teardrops -
His sea of compassion
To heal and to soothe,
His ocean of love
To suffuse ...
To enfold us.

To Be Spirit ¹

*To be a spirit
Is to be able to live one's life
WITHIN another
... In all others who welcome us to do so,
Whether consciously, or not.*

*To live mutually within another,
Is not possible, for either,
If one rejects the other.
However, if there is no rejection,
Degrees of being spirit to each other,
Are possible – with the potential
Of either enhancing or devaluing
Each other's spirit.
Thus to be an enhancing spirit,
Is to be available for communion
– With all who DESIRE it.*

*If we are blest with the grace
Of Divine Adoption
... By being baptized into Christ ...
And continue to live like Jesus,
Our spirit is DRAWN to live in the human spirit
Of Christ, 'the New Man'. ²*

Also, the Ascended Jesus' human spirit

Lives within ours

–As we become mutually available

For the best of human communing !

But, wondrously,

The Ascended Jesus had promised always to invite

The Holy Spirit of Abba and of Himself-as-Son

– To LIVE Abba's and His own Divine Life

Within our human spirit !

And more wondrously,

Since this Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Unity in God,

And the source of Unity

For ALL who live in Christ, the New Man,

The Spirit is the guarantor

That all “become members, one of another,”³

–So our Abba-God

Is “all in all”⁴

In that “one new humanity created in Christ”⁵

1 Poem 688, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 1.

2 Eph 2:15 (J.B.) 3 Rom 12:5 4 1Cor 15:28 (J.B.) 5 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.)

Love of My Heart ¹

*Love of my heart
Set within my heart, the gifts
... Of deep prayer
... And consciousness of Enrapture. ²
Grant me, to live out fully
... What is in the mind of Christ for me,
... What is His, and the Church's, dream for me.*

*Cause me to stay humbly before You, O Love,
Crucified with Your Beloved.*

*Let me be
... As a pure, transparent spirit,
To focus Your Light for others
... And thus, an open, clear channel
Of Your Love and Life for all.*

Amen ! ³

1 Poem 689, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 2.

2 'Enrapture' is Jesus Ascended being enfolded in the arms of Abba, receiving the promised Gift of the Spirit – ultimately for our 'new humanity' in Him.

3 This is a Daily Missal prayer of mine, at Eucharist – Author.

Our Need for Darkness ¹

While the darkness of Mystery IS real,

There is no mystery IN darkness :

Darkness, IN ITSELF, is absence ;

It is devoid of meaning ; it is nothing.

However, the darkness of Mystery conceals a wondrous reality

–For Mystery’s being present

To humankind’s inmost being

... “More inward than my inmost self”... ²

Is beyond all our knowing and all our seeking,

Beyond our initiating any contact,

Clothed in the blindness of unknowability.

Yet, the Divine Paradox

Is that Mystery is utter SELF-REVELATION :

... Longing, with infinite longing, to reveal all

To those it loves ;

... Yearning, with incomparable yearning,

With utter openness,

To show forth, to proclaim, its overflowing love !

Yet, Mystery also KNOWS

The transcending wisdom of sharing its boundlessness ...

In a way that doesn’t OVERWHELM us !

In depthing the heart of humanity,

Mystery seeks out “the poor in spirit”, the open-hearted, ³

As those most ready ... to commune with Utter Love,

To enter into the Embrace of Mystery !
Most sadly, history reveals that we human beings
Have been repeatedly unresponsive to, or dismissive of,
Mystery placing all its hopes
On “the gentle and humble of heart” ... to commune with.
FIRSTLY, there are those who pay scant respect
To Mystery’s role in their lives, at all
... Striving to be INDEPENDENT of it, through self-focussed choices,
... And so stumble into a darkness of their own devising,
Becoming lost souls, adrift in the banalities and superficialities of life,
Comfortable with deception and self-absorption.

SECONDLY, others ... by discounting, ignoring, or even resisting
The Mystery within us,
Distractedly, wander, into the gloom of HALF-HEATEDNESS,
Slowly becoming alienated ... from themselves, others, and Creation.
Still, Mystery’s own enhancing gaze is NEVER withheld
From ANY of us, as it lingers lovingly,
Longing to catch our heart’s eye ...

Nevertheless, there are those who do reverence
The Mystery Within
–Continually choosing DEPENDENCE on it .
As Mystery’s gaze meets theirs,
There is often an enabling of hearts, an emboldening of spirits
–To open to selflessness, and to surrender all to Mystery.
In hearts of prayerfulness and reflectfulness ...
Glimpses of the Beyond arise
...With encounters of deeper and deeper intimacy
And thus, transient experiences of UNION.

Here too, there is a darkness
– *A darkness, not self-fashioned, but God-made,*
A growth-filled, ultimately creative darkness.

HERE, Love shields our gaze
From Mystery, ever so CLOSE
– *A Father's fond response to a deep trust*
That still, can't quite cope
... The deep trust of a babe in arms,
Eyelids lowered in peaceful confidence,
Content to be held to the breast
By a dotting Father,
Whose Face is sensed, not seen.

This new-born
– *And TO Mystery, we are all, always, new-born –*
When raised from its reverie,
Cradled in the embrace of Mystery,
STILL fails, with eyes open,
To clearly behold Mystery's Face :
It is still, just a little too far away, to gain FOCUS.

But, when DRAWN CLOSER, by Love itself
– *So near as to sense Love's Breath –*
It can now gaze into the wellsprings of Love's Eyes
And, with joy, return Mystery's smile.
Darkness vanishes with those smiling eyes,
And Love's sunlight brings oneness of union
... For a time ...

Ultimately, it is to A-DARKNESS-THAT-COMFORTS

*That the new-born returns,
A darkness wished for by the Father ...
For, with darkness, comes the gifts of rest,
GROWTH BY DEGREES,
And thus of an enhanced capacity for light.
For this child of Mystery ... is a child of Light,
Who, short of heaven's Glory,
Has a NEED for this intermittent darkness.*

1 Poem 690, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 2.

2 C.f. Ps 139 :13 3 Mt 5:3 4 Mt 11:28

Receiving and Giving the Spirit ¹

For Abba,
In His wondrous encounter with the Ascended Jesus,
In His utter abandonment-to-giving,
He urges the Spirit
To draw us up into Christ,
To draw us up into the very source of Life,
Into the heart of Divine Fellowship,
Into Their Circle of Love,
To have us permeated with the Spirit of Love,
Permeated with the Spirit of utter, mutual surrender –
To receive God !
To give God !
To give in the receiving !
To receive in the giving !

For us,
To BREATHE IN this Spirit,
The Spirit of a loving Abba
... Who raises ALL TO LIFE in the humanity
Of His Beloved Son ...
Is to fulfil
The supreme hope of Jesus' Paschal heart.

*This hope is that the so-yearned-for “Promise”²
Of His dearest Abba
–The Gift of the Spirit to Jesus, Risen and Ascended –
... ENABLES Jesus to be raised, out of death,
“A New Man”,³
Whose “New Humanity” we can share⁴
As adopted brothers and sisters ;
... Enables Jesus Ascended to be raised
Into the Embrace of Abba
Wherein, He receives the Spirit FOR US ;
... Enables US to receive the Spirit IN Jesus Ascended,
Together, as a family, being incorporated in Jesus’ PERSON
... With His single IDENTITY as the New Man,
Becoming ours !*

*Jesus Ascended’s wondrous RECEPTION of the Spirit for us,
Allows us, IN Him,
To breathe forth this Spirit of wonder and grace
Into each other’s lives, as fellow “members” of Christ⁵
– Into spirits, thirsting for “Living Water”,⁶
–Into spirits, hungering for Love.
This is truly Abba’s most freeing grace
... The fruit of His delight in giving us His Spirit
So that we sinners, ourselves, become channels of the Spirit !*

*Our own hearts, bursting with delight,
Deluge our world with thanks !
This is not enough for us ...
We now offer the ONLY GIFT WORTHY :
Ourselves, IN, and AS, Christ
... As a Eucharist of the Beloved to Abba !*

1 Poem 691, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 3.

2 Acts 2:39 (J.B.) 3 Eph 2:15 (J.B.) 4 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 5 Rom 12:5 (N.R.S.V.) 6 Jn 7:38 (J.B.)

Our Participation in God's Longing ¹

HOPE is not ONLY our longing for God

But God's longing for us ...

Longing to pour Love's Reality into us,

Longing to be welcomed by us.

Hope is our participation in God's longing.

Within the Trinity of Fellowship,

Abba's longing is EXPRESSED in His Word,

And, when it focuses on us ... in the Word's embodiment, in Jesus.

So, Abba's desires of each of us,

His vision for humanity,

Is found in Jesus' own DREAM for us.

Central to this DREAM, is the Eucharist

– The encapsulation of the whole of the Paschal Mystery FOR US –

... "I have LONGED to eat this Passover with you,

Before I suffer." ²

And central to Jesus' first Eucharist,

Are two key desires ... requests of His Abba.

Firstly, Jesus asks for the gift of faithfulness for His followers

... "Keep those You have given Me

True to Your Name" ... ³

"Make them holy through the truth." ⁴

*Jesus' second desire is His most heartfelt
– with the deepest resonances for US –
“I want those You have given Me
To BE WITH ME WHERE I AM
... So that the love with which You have loved Me
May be in them,
SO THAT I MAY BE IN THEM.”⁵
What a wonderful expression of HOPE in Abba !
Ought we not, then, wholeheartedly participate
In this longing of Jesus ?*

1 Poem 692, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 4.

2 Lk 22:15 3 Jn 17:11 4 Jn 17:17 (I.B.) 5 Jn 17:24, 26

The Together Rosary ¹

*These 4 poems A,B,C,D, replace the 4 main prayers in the ordinary rosary,
All in the usual sequence – except there are only 3 of the Poem C,
replacing the 10 Hail Marys. I created this Together Rosary as both a more explicitly
Trinitarian, and shorter version, of the ordinary rosary.*

- Poem A. (Replaces the I Believe :)*
I believe in You, Abba, Jesus and Loyce, ²
And in you, Mother Church
–Bride of the Father, Body of the Beloved, and Channel of the Spirit
- Poem B. (Replaces the Our Father :)*
Abba, embrace us as Your Own, as WE pray –
“Incarnate Jesus, within us ...
To live the life of Your Beloved in us !
Herein, to be the Prayer of our heart !
- Poem C. (Replaces the Hail Mary :)*
Loving Abba, Jesus, Loyce,
Heal ... En-Spirit ... and Enrapture us, ³
Together ... with Mary.
- Poem D. (Replaces the Glory Be :)*
Glory to You, Dearest Abba,
Through You, Jesus our brother,
In You, Creative Spirit
... Mystery of Divine Desire within our freedom.

1 Poem 693, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 4.

2 ‘Loyce’ is my familiar term for the Paschal Spirit who is LOVE, JOY, and PEACE ...pronounced Loy – cee .

3 ‘En-Spirit’= to enliven with the Spirit, who indwells a person.

‘Enrapture’ can be both a verb and a noun ... for the experience of rapture, between Abba and the Ascended Jesus.

The One Paschal Moment ¹

*Jesus –
You kept on loving us
Through death,
Entrusting Yourself to Abba ...*

*You are raised anew
As the New Man, ²
Radiant with God's Life for all !*

*You are rapturously embraced by Abba,
In the Homecoming Uniting
Of His Spirit of Glory !*

*You gift all, with Your Spirit of Love
... Now, ALIVE in us,
Yet, still to come !*

*Come, Sanctifying Spirit !
Live in us !
Live the Life of Abba's Beloved in us !*

1 Poem 694, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 4.

NOTE: This poem, The One Paschal Moment, can replace ALL traditional final prayers of the ordinary rosary beginning

with the Hail Holy Queen ... in the new Together Rosary.

This poem-prayer contemplates the four faces of the Paschal Mystery – Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and Giving of the Holy Spirit – as the ONE PASCHAL MOMENT ... the Eternalized moment, in which all our lives and all our praying, especially the Eucharist, are situated.

2 Eph 2:15 (N.A.B.)

God Accompanies His Gifts ¹

As the Paschal Christ gifts us with His God-life ...

A robust faith affirms that WE live out His life in us ;

Stronger faith proclaims that CHRIST lives out His life in us.

So too, with subsequent gifts ... like hope, compassion, and discernment :

A robust faith affirms that, with the Spirits' help –

WE hope for God's constant saving action in our lives,

WE are moved, body and spirit, to compassion,

WE need to soulfully discern God's will for us.

Stronger faith proclaims that –

We let GOD'S dream, that we be saved, happen in us,

We let GOD'S compassion, be realized in us,

We let GOD'S vision or will, come true within us.

So too with simple unexpected gifts –

Kind words from a stranger, good rain,

A smile from one's child, a good coffee.

O Abba – You are the God of ALL gifts ! ²

You know the utter joy of giving ...

Indeed, Your own Spirit is GIVING itself !

Thus, from You, through Jesus, we experience and learn

That giving is, ESSENTIALLY, a Godly activity

Yes ! The template for all giving is the Trinity !

WONDROUSLY,

Only God can live out God's saving life, within us,

Only God can be as compassionate as our heavenly Father,

Only God's Spirit can reveal, and enable, what God wants of us,

Only God can ultimately, produce a kindly smile on a stranger's face,

Only God, ultimately can arrange ALL circumstances for a good coffee.

Then, our response in faith, must be one –

Of AWE, for a God who is utterly giving,

Of THANKS, for God's choice of ourselves, and for the gifts,

Of REVERENCE, for the Giver of the gifts.

This whole Mystery of Giving issues from God's Love :

God loves ...

God loves to give ...

God loves to give the Godself ...

God loves to give the Godself eternally.

Indeed our Abba God can never separate Himself

From His giving or from His gifts :

Our Abba God always ACCOMPANIES His gifts ...

Not only in the giving, but in the receiving ...

For God can only GIVE to God –

Abba giving Himself to the Beloved Son alone, ³

And thus, only IN Christ, can Abba give Himself TO US. ⁴

So too, only God can RECEIVE God –

Only the Beloved Son is open to Abba, and only He receives Abba, ⁵
And thus only IN Christ, CAN WE be open to, and receive Abba. ⁶

*For those NOT 'IN Christ', who, for whatever reason
Close the door ... to God living His Life in them,
To God's PERSONAL presence, in them,
To God's PERSONAL gifts ...
There is the ACCOMPANYING offer
Of God's providential presence,
Of God's non-personal gifts.
These are eternally offered IN Christ, the Lord of Creation,
And if tacitly received, are received from the same Christ !*

*The wonder for those who choose to be IN Christ
Is that Abba, and the Spirit
Live out Their Life of deepest communion
Within all, IN Christ
... Receiving and giving ALL, in Him !*

1 Poem 695, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 4.

2 Jn 1:17 and Tb 4:19 3 Jn 17:7, 10 4 Lk 10:22 5 Jn 14:11 6 Jn 14:6

Angels : Companion-Spirits of Peace ¹

“Glory to God in the highest ... among those whom God favors” Lk. 2:14.

Rejoice, O Angels, in God’s glorious peace !

You, yourselves, in peaceful communion with God,

Radiate peace to all you encounter.

Your own Spirit-Song sings

Of the glories of peace !

Christ, in His Rising,

Enspirited you with His joy and His peace !

And we return your blessing of His Paschal peace, to you ...

For you are truly ... bringers of joy, singers of harmony, and persons of peace !

Your loving care FOR US grows out of this Paschal peace.

Indeed, Jesus Ascended’s peaceful radiance fills your being,

And infuses with joy, your own loving-kindness to us.

You keep vigil over the peace of our spirits

– Warding off the spirit of egoism, envy, and dissension

... Opening our hearts to the spirit of humility, selflessness and unity.

You proclaim through your very presence,

The goodness of that peace, “which the world cannot give “. ²

You enspirit God’s people, and each person who is ‘yours’,

With Jesus’ “own peace” ³

... Flowing out of His Abba-God and Himself

‘Making Their home’ ⁴

Within the hearts of humankind !

Swift to respond to His desires, you protect and inspire us,

And gather us together

In the Church of Christ's Body.

This Body is always yearning to be filled

With the Holy Spirit of Easter Evening's Peace ...

“Peace be with you ... Receive the Holy Spirit ;

For those whose sin you forgive, they are forgiven.” ⁵

Obviously, Jesus desires,

That His Easter Peace, which He entrusted to you,

Becomes ours, wherever the spirit of reconciliation is fostered.

Yes ! You angels of the Easter Christ,

You are the facilitators of this reconciliation

... Bestowing peace WITHIN us, and BETWEEN us, and WITH creation.

We thank you, lovable companion-spirits, from our hearts !

Yet, your deeper gift, O Angels of Abba,

Is a communal one :

To attend upon the Eucharist of the Beloved

–Upon His Sacrificial Supper for sinners, with the offer of abiding peace

... “My peace I give to you, My peace I leave with you”. ⁶

In your zeal to companion our humanity's Peaceful One

... Who “made peace, by the blood of His cross”... ⁷

– Yours it is to soothe the present wounds of His Body

... Just as you responded when He was “pierced for our offences”; ⁸

–Yours it is to adore the crucified poor man, as your Servant-God;

– Yours to prepare human hearts to banquet with OUR God ;

– Yours to dance the song of joy, to glory in His praise

... Your Spirit-Song resonating with our human choirs ...

As ALL commune with the Risen Ascended Jesus !

*Let us ALL – angels and humanity,
Join with the Prince of Peace,
In His surrender of His whole being
... Spirit and body ...
To Abba !
O lovable companion-spirits
Share your Eternal peace with us ...*

1 Poem 696, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 5.

2 Jn 14:27 3 Ibid 4 Cf Jn 14:23 5 Jn 20:22, 23 6 Jn 14:27 7 Col 1:20 8 Is 53:5 (N.A.B.)

A Seamless Garment ¹

An individual Christian's SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS,

And Christian COMMUNITY-AWARENESS

Can never be divorced from each other ;

Rather they need to be wedded together,

“Woven into a seamless garment” ²

– Because God's Inner Life lived out within them both

Lived out, within a Tri-unity of Persons

... Calls them to ever deeper integration and unity.

¹ Poem 697, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, January 2006.

² Cf. Jn19:23

Christ's Experience of Us ¹

For those open to Love ...

Christ enables us to truly experience Himself

–Through His Word in Scripture, His Spirit's promptings,

Through CHRISTENED relationships, suffering, and daily routines,

And through His Centering Presence in the Sacraments, especially Eucharist.

However, what is even more vitalizing

Is Christ's experience of us :

... Christ's own wondrous sense of experiencing us from WITHIN

... How Christ lives His Life in ours

While ours is transformed into His !

While His Life luminesces, galvanizes ours ...

His Life is not possessive of ours,

Nor His empowering, relegating of our efforts.

Rather, Jesus Ascended delights in elevating us, our humanity,

Reverencing our dignity ... welcoming a MUTUALITY between us,

Uniting us, in a communion

Of the Divine with the Divinized !

The Light of Christ within

Suffuses us with what most delights us HUMANLY :

With the DIVERSITIES AND HARMONIES of both the five senses and sexual sensing,

*With the DIVERSITIES AND HARMONIES of feeling, intuiting, reasoning, choosing and
belonging*

–All, enlivened and deepened by LOVE.

Indeed, Christ is wholly creative and inspiring in His friendship :

Attracting us into a mutuality

With ALL God-centered hearts

That is deeply, warmly HUMAN,

While personally, Divinely engaging us

–Uplifting our human loving and sharing

To the Divine Fellowship of Love !

Always Act Like Your Father ¹

(Words from the Cross, I)

“Father forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Lk 23:34)

For Jesus ... His Abba-God

Is not only OUR role-model for forgiveness,

But for ALL He Himself, and we, ought DO ...

“You must always ACT like your Father in heaven.” ²

In an especial way, LOVING OUR ENEMIES

Is the key to unlock Jesus’ whole earthly mission.

In the Incarnation, Abba’s Beloved came to love those

Who, by their life-choices, OPPOSED Abba and Himself

– Meaning, of course, humanity as a whole,

But also, individual brothers and sisters ... to varying degrees.

The Beloved’s submitting to crucifixion, was pre-eminently about LOVE

– Loving, to the end, those who oppose Abba’s Dream for humanity.

Even for those individuals, physically gathered around the Cross,

Jesus’ deepest instinct was to “do good to them”

... To “pray” for them, to “bless” them ! ³

For ourselves – AS A PEOPLE – to be Christ like
Is literally, to LOVE all groups who oppose us, in ANY way.

For myself, as an imitator of Jesus,
I need to let Jesus, absolutely COME ALIVE IN ME

... “Loving” my envious self into wholeness,
... “Doing good” to those I’ve spited in gossiping,
... “Praying” for those who have been vengeful to me,
... And “blessing” those who undermine me, and whom I’ve undermined.

4

Our mission, simply, is to love as Jesus loved.

1 Poem 699, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, Clayfield Community house, March/April 2006, Week 1.

NOTE: This retreat lasted 43 days, from Ash Wednesday to ‘Spy’ Wednesday. Pat Oliver saw me fortnightly as my spiritual director.

The theme was Jesus’ seven sayings from the Cross, one per week.

2 Mt 5:48 (C.E.V.) 3 Lk 6:27, 28 4 IBID.