

Folio Fifty-Two

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**Meant to be sung.*

Always There Waiting ... Within Our Suffering ¹

“Suffering is a FUNDAMENTAL means of salvation .” Ben XVI.

*Because suffering is at the very core
Of God’s loving us ...
IF we are self-centred,
Suffering remains with us – as ours, ours alone
... Lone souls adrift in the darkness,
Facing meaninglessness, lovelessness, and sterility .*

*However, if we allow ourselves to be drawn WITHIN suffering,
To its very heart – then, Christ’s Presence THERE,
Can CENTER our whole being
... So that HIS identity, HIS consciousness, and HIS destiny
Becomes OURS ...and ours, HIS
– In a word, our suffering ... naturally and wholly ... becomes HIS !
– His to direct to its myriad saving purposes,
Purposes that are NOW meaningful, and LOVE-FILLED !*

Ultimately, the CENTERING reality of Christ's Presence within suffering,

Is that our Ascended Jesus SHEPHERDS us

Through all the suffering sin generates

... Especially through DEATH : sin's culmination.

In shepherding us, Christ's single-hearted MISSION

– Moving us beyond the cages of our self-absorption,

Beyond the grip of lust, greed, and self-empowering –

Is to remove the DEATH-OF-LOVE within our hearts .

Wondrously, Jesus' own LOVED-FILLED death

Disempowers this death-of-love within human hearts

– Resuscitating, regenerating, vivifying our humanity

... So we become "a new creation" IN Christ, who IS Love !

Thus, ALL of our suffering, self-woundedness and communal pain

Is handed over to, embraced and transformed eternally by, the Paschal Christ !

Suffering's Centre : An Open-Armed Father ¹

“There is no evil, from which God cannot draw greater good.” John Paul 11.

*There is no suffering of ours
That Jesus cannot draw, and transform,
Within His own experience of suffering
On Cavalry's Cross .
Faith alone allows us to know that this is so .*

*Thus, drawn gently into Jesus's agonizing, truly inhuman ordeal,
Our suffering, WITHIN HIS,
Is transformed, by journeying – not alone – but WITH HIM ,
AS ABBA'S EASTER LIGHT dawns WITHIN HIM !*

*In Jesus, our suffering spirits
Are most fondly PRESSED, to Abba's Heart,
With the tenderest, Fatherly love .
The OUTCOME is that we, in the unfolding of Jesus' ordeal,
Become Abba's OWN special care
– “As for an only Son”! ²*

*Thus, at the very heart of all our suffering,
Is the CERTAINITY of an accompanying Brother, and of an open-armed Father !*

In Abba's enveloping arms, suffering loses ALL its impact ;

Indeed, death itself is utterly DISEMPOWERED – forever !

Death, IN Christ, becomes but a POINT of transition

– An opening to Eternal Bliss ...

All those in Christ are drawn into the Easter rhythm of Abba's Heart !

Thus, our passage through death, IS Christ's own Paschal Body

– A Body wondrously restored to Life Unbounded,

By the Father of all tenderness

... Through the re-vivifying Breath of the Spirit !

Marvellously, we are already – NOW – through the embrace of grace,

ALIVE TOGETHER as Christ's very own BODY,

And our experience is that suffering and death, in themselves,

Lose any pretence of meaning, power, and significance

–For Christ has entered into their very centre,

And found there ...

The Eternal, Enabling, Welcoming Presence of a Loving Father !

In surrendering our powerlessness into Christ's care,

We do not mirror, but RE-ACTUALIZE, IN HIM,

Jesus's own utter surrender

Into Abba's arms of tenderness .

*Some, at this point, are given the special grace
Of ACTIVELY CO-SUFFERING with Christ
—As was Mary in a pre-eminent, and all-inclusive way
... Becoming the Paschal pattern, for all CO-REDEMPTIVE suffering, within the Church .*

*As we continue to re-actualize Christ's Paschal journey,
We are raised with Jesus
Out of suffering
Into the profound joy of Divine Fellowship .
Our tears are no more,
Our communal burden of sin dissipates
In the liberating Light of Glory !
And we are enveloped with Jesus Ascended, in the arms of Depthless Love .*

*We enter into the living of a Life
Where our loving, now totally free of pain,
Becomes radiant and resurgent
With DIVINE expressiveness !
We love now, as Abba's wondrously FREE Beloved
— Within the exhilaration of Divine Fellowship !
... Suffused with the Spirit of Peace ...*

1 Poem 2021, Composed while in Saint Andrew's Hospital, Brisbane (5 weeks) November –December 2010

2 Amos 8:10

Exhilarated by Abba's Gaze ¹

O Abba,
In yearningly gazing on You,
With Your Son's love-lit Easter eyes
... As He joyously embraces You
In the enrapture of the Ascension ...
We, His adopted brothers and sisters
Exhilarate ... as You RETURN our gaze !
Your GAZE
... Your glorious Life-giving Presence ...
Now fills us with Your luminous, enlivening Peace !

Your GAZE is an ever-present possibility, NOW, in the age of the Spirit
... Both for the joys and peace it brings
As You comfort our every PERSONAL ache of heart and angst of spirit,
But also, as You heal our COMMUNAL disjointedness .

O Spirit of Homecoming
Keep us ever-close,
— Through Your TOGETHERING Presence, —
Within Abba's Heart .
Keep us ever-open, in Jesus Ascended, to Abba's GAZE .

¹ Poem 1022, Composed while in Saint Andrew's Hospital, Brisbane (5weeks), November – December 2010.

Whose Am I ? ¹

Salvation

*Is being healed, and nourished,
Having Christ empower our future TOGETHER
... While being shepherded into the Embrace of God .*

*In being drawn, thus, into God's Transformative Presence,
THESE questions naturally arise : –*

WHOSE am I ?

Immediately, there comes the faith-realization

That I am God's :

Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit CREATE us

... So, we BELONG to Them !

Our future is THEIR sacred trust !

WHY am I ?

I am created – initially, and continuously, in a host of ways :

Because Abba LOVES me into-being-who-I-am

... Into being a created, lovable expression

Of His own Self-Realization :

His Son ! His Beloved ! His Joy !

How am I ?

I am empowered, and sustained, IN LOVE,

Through the Enabling Presence

Of the Spirit who IS LOVE .

I am thereby implanted with a YEARNING

To be one with Their Fellowship of Love

... Through ALL points of my journey of love

Especially, it SEEMS, when I am not true to this Love !

How wondrous in God's Love !

WHO am I ?

I am 'Ron' ,

Steeped in love ... through being BAPTIZED

... Immersed in the INTIMACY of the Eternal Trinity .

I am THUS drawn into Christ's Paschal pilgrimage of love to Abba,

And, therein, I am CHURCHED .

I am given membership of this earthly Fellowship of Love

By being en-Personed, actually embodied,

Within the glorious Ascended Body of Christ,

And nourished by that very same Body !

WHO am I WITH ?

My basic belongingness, self-evidently,

Is to the WHOLE of humanity

– To a humanity SHARED with Christ

– But, Mysteriously, to a NEW humanity, PERSONIFIED in Christ .

This is so, because Christ is its UNIQUE EXPRESSION

And, therein, its ENABLING TEMPLATE !

My DEEPER belongingness, within this NEW humanity,

Is to Christ's own Fellowship of Eternal Intimacy

– To whom I belong, by adoption,

In the Ascended Jesus !

He thus welcomes me into that COMMUNITY of the “poor in spirit”,

Who, together are in-gathered into His very Person

... Through the Spirit of the Beloved !

Ultimately, WHO am I FOR ?

By God's free choice, I possess a graced ORIENTATION

To the God of all life and all love

– Who forever FATHERS me, in deepest tenderness,

– Who, in the Beloved, forever BROTHERS me,

– Who, in the Spirit, forever EN-SPIRITS all who love

... And all of regenerated creation ...

Into a wondrous Unity .

The Enlivening Light of Intimacy ¹

*The focus of Abba's one Gaze of Love ...
Abba's one Divine Yearning, Eternally fulfilled ...
Is His Most Lovable Son
... Who enfolds our many millions of hearts as well !*

*In this Enrapture, in the Spirit –
The more luminous Abba's desire to be with us, IS
... The more do we sense the sweet Mystery of His caresses,
... The more Abba opens us, to giving-of-our-selves IN Christ,
... And, yes, the more tender is Abba's surrender TO us,
And the deeper our mutual love IS, IN Brother Jesus .*

*Indeed, as we feel Abba's arms wondrously encircle us
– His caressing fingers telling us we are His,
His cheek warmly touching ours –
We sense His Gaze
Welcoming, encompassing ours,
As the enlivening Light of Intimacy !*

*As we sense His Breath moving within us,
Vivifying, drawing us together
... Forming us into the wondrous Oneness
Of the very Person of His Only-Begotten, His Chosen One ...
We KNOW we are Abba's, Eternally !*

Open to Love's Divine Depthlessness ¹

In being drawn into God's Intimacy

Our lives always CHANGE :

... We are enabled, IN Christ, to integrate our past, wholly differently !

... We are GRACED to experience our present life, surpassingly differently !

... We envision our future transcendently – within CHRIST'S very Person ...

Such that –

Our loving, opens to Love's Divine Depthlessness,

Our relationships are ALL transformed,

... Either to accompany those others who experience God's Intimacy,

So that our spirits FLY FREE, in the Freedom of the Spirit ;

... Or to BE CHRIST UNFAILINGLY to those who cannot, or do not,

Experience this Intimacy .

1 Poem 1025, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Gold Coast Holidays, December 27th 2010.

The Wise Person ¹

“Wisdom illuminates the deepest nature of things .” *John O’Donohue.*

The wise person

Integrates abiding feelings, with deep insight ...

Wedding the feminine-in-life, to the masculine

– All into a complementary, unitive perspective .

He she, harmonizes the exclusive delights of intimate union, or of friendship,

With the inclusive compassion of self-sacrificing commitment ;

This wise one allows the treasured perceptions of the past

To commune with the visions of the future ;

And most profoundly,

Humbly acknowledges WISDOM as gift of the God who is Love

... A gift that blooms, the more fully it is gifted to others !

The wise person

Knows, with certainty,

That the key to happiness

Is to love selflessly,

Because, to value the other

... Even one’s enemies ...

Is to value both oneself,

And the community,

To which all belong .

Universally, wise people KNOW

That the deeper one's love,

The more love GATHERS us

Into a community ...

That protects, sustains, and enhances love

Wherever it reveals itself .

Further, the wise person knows ...

That for personal and community love to LAST,

The sufferings of both

Need to be positively incorporated

Into the Paschal Cycle of the Loving One

– Who entered into our humanity

To suffer with us,

And crucially, to suffer FOR-US-UNTO-DEATH .

Jesus did this that we might have LASTING joy,

Joy brimming with Life ... full of Eternal promise,

Alive with the everlasting peace ... of Divine Intimacy .

Mysterious Communing ¹

Sexual temptations are mostly self-deception

... Some, when overcome, enhance – even deepen – the person’s RELATING .

But, for many who are tempted, it means succumbing :

And, as they interact with ‘others’,

To pursue the allure, of earth’s “heaven” –now –

Such bonding is again found to be an illusion

– Merely self-deception, reciprocated .

Contrarivise, REALITY is the experience of love

... The living out of the truth – of who we are together .

Reality is COMMUNING :

Experiencing Heaven truly – as are earthen couple

... Drawn into the Mystery of Love,

Into that Love which forever surpasses THEIR love together,

... Drawn, as a couple, into that mysterious communing

– Which they share with faithful celibate hearts –

Into the foundational Love which anchors all loving hearts !

*This mysterious communing, this foundational Love
Perfects and deepens their love eternally .
Together in the Spirit, their love proclaims :
“We need to accept
That we already and forever share in the deepest INTIMACY
Possible for human hearts
... In the wondrous Fellowship of Abba, Jesus and the Spirit !
We accept that this INTIMACY is all-pervasive and everlasting
... Both marvellously adrenalizing, and deeply, deeply peaceful .”*

*“And so, we need to be open to God’s gift of trusting,
Letting it blossom, beautifully, and bear fruit, lavishly
... Because, we are deeply loved
... And because, we co-share, with countless brothers and sisters
–Married, and celibate –*

In Jesus Ascended’s identity, wondrous consciousness, and love of Abba .”

Jesus, Be All My Loving ¹

*Jesus, be all my loving
... Especially, be my chastity .*

*Be all my relating
... Especially, be my compassion .*

*Be my truth
... My liberating truth .*

¹ Poem 1028, Year 13 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community Brisbane, January 2011.

When Love Leans Down ^{1*}

When Love leans down

To kiss our lives,

To O-P-E-N hearts ...

“There’s ROOM ...

When Love leans down

To kiss our lives,

To draw us close –

We BLOOM .

When hearts unite

Our spirits sing :

What’s ours is raised –

ABOVE ...

When hearts unite

Our spirits sing :

Our hearts are wed –

To LOVE’S .

Our lives are Yours !
Our hearts are Yours !
OUR spirits blend –
As ONE ...
Our lives are Yours !
Our hearts are Yours !
OUR spirits wed –
As SON !

Within Your arms !
Within Your heart !
Your wondrous Word –
RE-SOUNDS !
Within Your arms !
Within Your heart !
Your wondrous Love –
ABOUNDS !

There's but one Gift !
There's but one Love !
O ! One Embrace –
What BLISS !
There's but on Gift !
There's but on Love !
O ! One Embrace –
The KISS !

*Meant to be sung ; Tune : author's own.

1 Poem 1029,Year 13 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community Brisbane, February 2011.

Streaming through Millions of Hearts ¹

Our FAITH comes to us
– Streaming through millions of hearts :
Thus, the birth ... the wondrous experience ... the glory ...
Of our faith,
– Our faith together –
Streams forth :
... From the faith of Jesus, our own earthly brother
–From his faith in Abba, the love of his life !
... From the faith of Mary, the Mother of confidence-in-God ;
... From the faith of Peter, faith's template and guide,
Together with the centering faith of the other apostles .

... From the faith of our loving Evangelists,
And of the New Covenant of Love's other authors
Who both mirrored and amplified
The growing faith of the EMERGENT Body of Christ, the Church .

... From the faith of the maturing Church,
Which has been both inspired and nurtured
By the loving self-holocaust of the martyrs,
And by the SUSTAINED SACRIFICE, and Godly lives
Of those faithful hearts who, day by day, IMITATE the faith of Jesus .

... From the faith, MADE LUMINOUS for us,
Through the divinely infused teachings of our loving Church,
And through the heart-writings of her Saints .

And, pre-eminently,
... From the faith by which faith GROWS :
Through that faith in the Paschal Fellowship-born-of-sacrifice,
– Present for US, within a faith-invigorating Eucharist –
Providing a deepening of faith through AT-ONE-MENT
... Our COMMUNING-in-the-Ascended-Christ ...
Humanity's ultimate source of faith in our Abba-God .

O Wonder of Wonders ! ¹

O Paschal Jesus,

Dearest of brothers !

Raised out of sin's death : LUMINOUS with LIFE, for us !

Rapturous, in Abba's homecoming Embrace !

Suffused, and afire, with His Spirit !

... You gift us with this Spirit of Homecoming

– To DIVINIZE our fragile humanity !

O Jesus ! Loving Brother !

WITHIN this Paschal experience of Yours

... Through this wondrous Mystery of Eucharist ...

Continually DRAW US :

– Into Your suffering ... Your love-focussed, love-filled suffering .

– Into Your revitalized humanity

... A totally OPEN and ALL-INCLUSIVE humanity,

Vivifying all hearts who believe,

And, through them, transforming all reality !

– Into Your enrapturous homecoming, to Your Beloved Abba !

... Drawing our most undeserving race

– AS BROTHER –

Into humanity's DIVINIZATION in Glory, IN YOU !

Into Fellowship with the Divine !

Into Communion WITH God,

IN God, as God !

*Into Your DIFFUSION of this Spirit of Homecoming
WITHIN humanity and WITHIN Creation :
... Into this Mystery of God's awesome self-communication !
 Into Love's wondrous self-giving !
 Into The Eternal's luminous self-revelation !
... Into the opening of humanity – to the glories of Transcendence !
 And incredibly, into enabling us to relate heart to heart,
 With the God of Depthless Intimacy !*

*O Paschal Brother,
 Draw us ! Draw all reality !
 Into this Wonder of Wonders !
 Into this depthless Mystery of Eucharist !
 Into Your Divine Pilgrimage through the heart of humanity !
Into Your Paschal DIVINIZATION IN GLORY – OURS ALSO IN YOU !
 ... Humanity's tremulous entry into the heart of Abba !
 Into the most tender embrace of Love !
–Suffused with the Spirit of All-that-is-Received-is Given !*

1 Poem 1031, Year 13 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community Brisbane, February 2011.

'One of my Eucharist prayers through the years' - T.O'D.

God's Answer to Human Indifference ¹

*Jesus was the total opposite of BEING INDIFFERENT :
He loved His humanity, and ALL humanity, with a passion .*

So utterly committed was He ...

*That He took upon HIMSELF, at His Baptism –
... The vast miasma of our sin, and our indifference to God,*

*And later, in Gethsemane garden,
... Even our aversion to His loving Abba-God .*

In the end, on Calvary, this broke His heart !

Yes ! As the last of His life emptied, on the Cross

... Evil's utter viciousness PIERCED His heart !

*Yet, through the Spirit-who-is-Paradox,
... This provided the very OPENING for God's Love*

To enter our world

–For Abba's and Jesus' Spirit to become Their Gift to us .

In this very Spirit ...

*We are DRAWN, in the Paschal Jesus,
Into the Divine Circle of INTIMACY AND LOVE*

... God's answer to human indifference !

... Now OURS, through GRACE !

Grace Deeply Humanizes Us ¹

*Lust, greed, self-empowering,
And self-absorption in its many other guises
– Stifle, smother, and at times, suffocate human self-giving.
While, within unassisted human nature,
It is human self-giving that makes us more fully human
... Ultimately, it is the recognition of our LIMITEDNESS,
And the opening of ourselves to vitalizing GRACE
That, truly, most deeply humanizes us
... And that conforms us, ever more closely,
To that fullest and incomparable expression of our humanity
– Jesus Glorified !*

¹ Poem 1033, Year 13 of Prayer Ministry, Wooloowin Community Brisbane, April 2011.

Wondrously Humanized ¹

Swept up into Abba's arms !

Home ! To His Father's heart !

ALIVE within the Kiss of the Spirit !

... The Ascended Jesus

–With His humanity DEIFIED, and New Humanity now literally OPEN and accessible –

Invites us – to identify with Him,

– To 'follow' Him ... by incorporation into His very PERSON,

– And to share in His experience of Triune Paschal Cycle of Love :

–Already, FOR LOVE, we've followed Him

Into the crucifixion of the self ;

For love of others, we've sacrificed

The many 'selves' we could have become,

So that these OTHERS TOO might come ALIVE, in love, IN HIM !

–Already, FOR LOVE, we've been raised up, exalted ...

Drawn into the regenerative life of the Risen Son !

Revivified ! Reconnected to all others, ALIVE in Him !

Luminescing with the Glory of the Risen Beloved !

One with the entire cosmos, IN EXPECTATION ...

– Now, FOR LOVE, we joyfully assent

To being RAISED, further still

... Into the arms of Abba, into the very heart of Love !

... Into the Sanctuary, the Circle, of Divine Fellowship !

For Christ – and thus, for us –

This is an ecstatic journey

Into “US”...

Into the Triune Identity and Consciousness !

Herein, our earthen reality is truly HONOURED

Glorified to its ultimate expression :

DRAWN INTO THE UNION of the Ascended Jesus

With, and within, the Circle of Divine Intimacy !

The Spirit, in thus transfiguring Christ's, and our, humanity,

DRAWS US –

Not into timelessness, but into TIMEFULNESS

Not into spacelessness, but into SPACEFULNESS

... Into a TIME, into a SPACIOUSNESS

Wherein the Spirit of Divine Reality

OPENS each personal spirit to all others, IN Christ .

Thus, His Gifts of timefulness – the FULLNESS of all timed reality,

... The whole context of our history together, IN Him ...

And spacefulness – the TOTALITY of all our spacial experiences

... The whole context of humanity's partnership with Creation, IN Him ...

Now characterize our own spirit – so that we can all share

In Christ's Godly consciousness and vision !

The Spirit of Divine Reality

Enables this, through our own NOW-TRANSCENDENT spirit
– *As it now FULLY OPENS to all other co-indwelling spirits –*
So, together, we are gifted with the joy and peacefulness
Of becoming Divinely human
– *Radiant personal ‘GLORIES’ of the Ascended Jesus’*
Glorified humanity !

Thus this Spirit of Abba,
Breathing lovingly through the Ascended Beloved,
Opens each personal spirit, indwelling His own Person,
To its ultimate expressive purpose
– *TO SPIRITUALIZE each person’s physicality or body ... for union with Abba .*
Thus wholly GLORIFIED, our response to Abba’s embrace, IN CHRIST,
Can be a truly earthen, physically felt, one :
Our body THRILLING !
Our heart QUICKENING !
Our creatureliness EXHILARATING !
... As our tremulous humanity is loved into OPEN UNION
With the Divine !

Furthermore, with the Ascended Jesus' humanity
So utterly EN-SPIRITED
–Overwhelmed with totality of the Spirit's loving Presence –
It is but NATURAL for Jesus' NEW humanity
– And also for OURS, in His –
To SHARE this Spirit of Regeneration with ALL humanity,
... With a human generosity that is exhilaratingly Divine,
So that others' "Joy may be complete" ! ²

And with this Gift, of 'Spirit-sharing'
– The fruit of the loving divinization of our humanity
In the Ascension –
The Paschal CYCLE of LOVE is complete .
Yet, we are drawn into it ETERNALLY ...
RENEWED at a DEEPER level of relating and wonder
– Each time, more wondrously HUMANIZED,
In our 'deepening' divinization,
Than before !

1 Poem 1034, Year 13 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community Brisbane, April 2011.

2 Jn 15:11

Eucharist : The Centre of Suffering ¹

To many who are drawn daily
“To celebrate the Sacred Mysteries”, ²
Comes the gentle revelation, that ‘ Eucharist is the very centre of suffering’ ,
As the Eucharist’s Paschal Cycle of Love
Unfolds, firstly, in Jesus’ Passion and Death,
Jesus EXPLICITLY, takes all humanity’s sins,
All humanity’s suffering ... upon Himself .
Being “made sin for us” He surrenders Himself: ³
“Abba, Your will be done” ⁴
... Thus becoming, for us, our suffering’s CENTRE .

In Him, in the Eucharist, all human suffering is TRANSFORMED
– For here is present, the Suffering Servant,
Who “gave Himself up” for ALL who suffer ⁵
... Whether they accept His offered transformation or not .
Indeed, His suffering “unto death” is TRANSFORMATIVE ⁶
For us, NOW
– Today, in this Eucharist –
As we lay the burden of our suffering upon Him .
This Crucified Jesus
Risen, Ascended, and En-Spiriting us,
CENTERS OUR SUFFERING
In His Eucharistic Person,
... Giving it ‘a home’, purpose, and transcendent dignity !

*It is Jesus' Compassionate Presence, Himself,
Who transforms all persons hollowed out by sin and suffering .
As such, He Himself is the ENABLING primal person who is THUS transformed :
Transformed by none other, than His most tender, compassionate Abba
Transformed into a RECEPTIVE HOME OF HEALING .
As such, He is healed, MADE WHOLE
... Not by some mediated means but by an integrating power WITHIN,
By the Eternal Fellowship itself
Who welcomes Him – AS FAMILY !*

*All suffering NOT centred on the Eucharist
All un-CHRISTENED suffering –
Sees the sufferers increasingly self-focussed
... Feeling dis-connected, even isolated .
As their sufferings overlap and intensify,
Non-Eucharistic sufferers experience
– As their stories self-witness –
A growing experience of disconnectedness
An emptiness that depresses,
And crucially, a lack of an integrating centre for their lives .*

*Unmotivated by any deep sense of purpose,
The isolated sufferers' vision of the future
Is reduced to staring, perplexedly,
At more and more UNKNOWNNS !
This itself leads to their becoming
Increasingly, UNATTACHED to others' plans and pains .
Indeed, outside the Paschal Cycle of Love,
Each sufferer is reduced even further, to enduring an existence alone :
– Marked by repetition and feelings of futility,
– Coloured by a clamouring assertiveness about one's need for self-fulfilment,
And characterized by a blaming anger that is unfocussed, and misdirected .*

*If, however we accept the Suffering Servant
Into our hearts,
And are drawn to surrender our whole burden
– Our evil, our suffering, especially our sacrificial love –
Into Jesus' care
We feel an enormous sense of RELIEF .
This relief is truly life-changing
For, now, Jesus carries our burden WITH us
And suffers our suffering for us
– So whole-heartedly, so lovingly, as to DIE from it !*

*Jesus' death, out of pure love, is a DEATH-FOR-OTHERS .
His loving death removes, for all humanity,
The menace, the horror of facing death WITHOUT GOD .
In Jesus all face death, within Abba's gaze of love,
And under this Gaze, death, the great non-reality we magnify and fear,
Shrivels to ... NOTHINGNESS .*

*Moreover, in the most courageously human way possible,
Jesus does NOT use his hidden Godliness
To save Himself from this fatal love-sacrifice .
In doing so, Jesus acts INSTINCTIVELY :
– Out of the utter depths of His own HUMAN GOODNESS .
Indeed, this Suffering Servant, relying on nothing of His own, ⁷
Places this whole situation ... His destiny, our destiny,
Within the very heart of Abba's will, within HIS loving design for our salvation .*

*Thus, in Jesus' humanity, "made sin for us", ⁸
Death
– Our evil's culmination, and suffering's culmination –
Exact its full vengeance, its ultimate price !
There, beyond the cross, in His sojourn IN death,
Jesus plumbs the depths of the utter desperation, of the total isolation
... Of experiencing, FOR US, the absolute absence of God !*

*Yet, His wondrous filial trust transcends even this depthless suffering
... As He lovingly gathers all those waiting with Adam and Eve,
And raises them WITH Him, IN Him, to Life !
At this point, as Easter dawns,
Abba's Eternal Compassion torrents forth into His Beloved in Hades
As a Light-that-Enlivens
... Banishing forever – in Christ's OWN Person – the finality of death
And therein, vanquishing evil and its suffering !*

Abba's Compassionate Presence

– Reaches luminously into our darkest of dark corners

...Voiding the vestiges of sin, the seed for new evil, seeking refuge there !

– Reaches tenderly, into the sin-distorted intricacies

Of our minds and emotions, integrating all !

– Reaches, with a brother's affection, to dissolve the mutually wounding conflicts

That fuel our COMMUNAL sin and suffering .

Thus Abba, in vanquishing death FOREVER

... In Jesus's and our, disabled humanity ...

Makes it VANISH, with sin, and sin's suffering,

Because He, who is Light, disperses ALL darkness !

Abba's yearning, for sinlessness-in-our-humanity, is complete !

... "It is consummated !" ⁹

In Christ Ascended, death becomes but A POINT OF ENTRY

Into Heaven's Life, into Fellowship !

In the moment of His Raising, on Easter Dawn,

His now Glorified Body, His very PERSON

– For us now, His Eucharistic Body –

Become the PASSAGE, the way for us,

Into the arms of Abba !

His Eternal Life, as the Beloved of Abba,

Flows now, AS His Glorified Precious Blood,

Through the arteries of our, my, NEW humanity .

In Him, we come ALIVE

READY TO ENTER ... into Abba's Welcoming Heart !

*Wondrously, since Resurrection dawn
2000 years ago,
Our very humanity has been re-configured
At its core :
Sinless ! Restored ! Free ! Lovable ! Loving !
DEIFIED, as God's BELOVED !
Ours is a humanity, adopted, drawn into,
The Divine Circle of Love
... Experienced, HERE and NOW – yet veiled to the world's eyes !*

*Because of the sheer gift, the immeasurable honour,
Of Baptism,
Our life is a continual invitation
To live in response
To this, our TRUE NATURE :
We are invited to be
IMMERSED
In the joyfulness, the thankfulness, the peacefulness
Of a Christened humanity !*

*While being continually liberated from our old humanity,
We are jubilant in the freedom, and in the intimacy
That faith CASCADES
Both into our own hearts .
And into the lovingness of all our relating .
Both are awesome, true reflections
Of our dancing The Dance of Joy ...
Within Abba's Circle of Love !*

*Even as we exult in this NEW humanity of ours,
And live out its intimacies, Eucharistically,
Suffering does PERSIST
... For all “who labour and are heavy burdened”,¹⁰
Within their lives of sacrificial love .*

*Yet, we KNOW
– Within Eucharist –
Our hand is HELD ... even as we wince at pain’s impact ;
There are ears to listen ... to our silences, our whimpers, our screams ;
There are hands to soothe ... so that our “wounds QUICKLY heal over” ;¹¹
There are the shoulders and cheeks of the Suffering One ... to comfort our tears ;
And there’s always that Compassionate Presence ... whose companioning hug
Can gently turn into a Kiss ... of a heart-warming Friend .*

*Thus, the Eucharistic Jesus,
In welcoming ‘as His own,’
Our “broken, humbled hearts”¹²
– And the whole miasma of human pain –
Personally CENTERS our suffering :
So that we can share His dignity, identity, and destiny !*

*Through our celebration of the Paschal Cycle of Love
– In the Transformative Presence of Jesus –
Self-absorption ... becomes the grace to co-sacrifice with Jesus,
Fear ... becomes the embrace of a Friend,
Isolation ... becomes suffering hearts communing together,
And ‘a life without purpose’ ... becomes a heart-warming Presence
Who centers our life .
Truly, Eucharist IS the very centre of our “Newly Human” lives .¹³*

1 Poem 1035, Year 13 of Prayer Ministry, Marian Valley Retreat, May 2011.

2 Penitential Act introduction, Mass.

3 2Cor 5:21

4 Mt 26:42

5 Cf Lk 22:19 Also, consecration formula Mass 1 to 4.

6 Phil 2:8

7 See Is Chaps 53 to 55

8 2 Cor 5:21

9 Jn 19:30

10 Mt 11:28

11 Is 58:8

12 Ps 51:17 Grail.

13 Cf Eph 2:15

Pathos – the Depths of Life ¹

Experiencing human pathos unfolding in others

Calls forth a CHOICE from us :

To allow it to touch the core of our spirit

– Where we can come together to commune,

In a profoundly humanizing way –

Or,

To DISENGAGE,

– For whatever reason –

From our own KIND,

Especially, from their suffering,

And thus, by degrees, from OUR suffering,

And ultimately, from our own very selves .

Thus by shying away from pathos in others

– From the depths of life –

Our own RELATING to others is white-anted

– Cumulatively becoming more superficial,

More UNKIND to our KIND,

More hard-hearted .

*Contrarivise, the journey INTO pathos enriches our humanity .
While we can pre-suppose some initial sensitivity of heart, in most,
The journey is a schooling in the depthing of human emotions .*

*In early years,
As our heart flows with SYMPATHY for others,
Grace by grace, we seem DRAWN, to discover ...
That EMPATHY lies at the heart of sympathy
– Deepening it, personalizing it .*

*Then as grace ripens our heart,
We are LED, little by little,
– In the context of others’ losses, isolation, and suffering –
To deepen even our empathy ...
As we are PRIVILEGED to experience others’ pathos .
Indeed, their call to our heart
Is a clear invitation to us
To CO-EXPERIENCE with them, to ACCOMPANY them .*

*If our hearts’ general response is a “yes” ,
We grow to IDENTIFY
With those centering feelings
Which touch deeply into the human spirit .
And, crucially, this deepening journey
Reveals the human face of our being “drawn” and “led”
– The loving Presence of the Paschal Jesus,
The figure of pathos GLORIFIED !
Pathos with a DESTINY !*

*This man of Gethsemane garden,
Takes us by the hand,
And leads us WITHIN the spirits of those we ACCOMPANY .
Firstly, The Crucified gentles us, to comfort them with tenderness,
Then, He encourages us, to carry their crosses , WITH Him
... Often moving us to share some INSIGHTS into suffering
– Themselves, GIFTS of our graced participation in His Paschal journey .*

*The Resurrected Jesus' heart's purpose, WITHIN OUR PATHOS,
Is to include all involved
In a new, surpassingly profound HUMAN bonding :
In His own Father's DIVINE UPLIFTING of our humanity
– In our being raised up, in Christ, as a “New Humanity” within history !*

*Wondrously, the Spirit of the ASCENDED Jesus
Lovingly draws us beyond this transformative human experience of pathos,
Into the ultimate depths
Of the wholly DIVINE experience of pathos !
We are drawn into each Divine Person's ‘suffering’
As each suffers the limitless loss of Their Self,
As They eternally surrender Themselves
To each Other ;
And, simultaneously are also drawn into each Person's ‘suffering’
Infinite yearning,
In Their limitless need for each Other .*

Simultaneously, with both these Gifts
We are drawn into the unitive Gift
Of the DIVINE COMPASSION
Of each Person's
Co-experiencing the Others' limitless loss and need
... Coalescing in a wondrous Fellowship of Compassion
—The God of Love's most sacred gift
To those who co-journey humbly, in Christ to the DIVINE DEPTHS of pathos .

So, as we undergo OUR OWN PATHOS,
We are surpassingly comforted
Because we KNOW we are not alone ...
But mysteriously CO-EXPERIENCE the deepest reality of pathos
Within the heart of Eternal Tenderness .
Thus, our experience of pathos is REVEALED
—As our heart's Heart ACCOMPANYING us WITHIN
... Yearning to work Their compassionate wonders within us !

A deepened faith CONFIDENTLY SENSES both this attentive tender Presence,
And the need for humble fidelity to Eucharistic Celebration
To express our heartfelt thankfulness for it
... As we continue to be drawn ever more deeply,
Into the Fellowship of Mutual Compassion,
Into Their all-encompassing Circle of Love .

The Choice within Suffering ¹

*Because of Calvary, wherein Christ draws ALL to Himself,
And because of Christ's Presence at the heart of all human suffering
– And thus, at the heart of evil and of death –*

We all have a CHOICE :

To be confounded by its MYSTERY – alone, without a destiny,

Or

To allow ourselves to be drawn, through it, into MYSTERY –

To be REGENERATED in Jesus Risen,

To be RE-EMBRACED by the Father

To be EN-SPIRITED for Fellowship .

Facing the mystery of suffering alone, is a deep burden to bear :

Our will turmoils ... to accept it, and our mind is baffled ...

So we rarely seem ready to view it as REDEMPTIVE .

Thomas too,

Though blessed by Jesus' welcome, warmth, and friendship,

Balked at this hurdle, post Easter :

'The Master's wounds end with death – not life !'

... Rendering his earlier rallying cry, "Let us too, go and die with him !" ²

As a particularly FEAR-FILLED show of bravado .

*Gently, His Risen Friend draws him
Into Life's New Reality
... Inviting him to insert his trembling hand
– And ours –
Into His blood-fleshed spear-wound
... His, and our, entry, to the pierced but beating
HEART OF GOD !*

*Crumpling to his knees, Thomas gasps in awe
“O My God ! My God ! Jesus, my GOD !”³*

In effect, Thomas prays this prayer for us :

Jesus, our GOD !

You have TRANSFORMED death

Ever more !

By CHOOSING to journey to death's very heart,

You have absorbed all its possibilities !

And thus, O God ! BROTHER to us all,

You have TRANSFORMED every facet of death !

And, in Your wondrously Divine humanity,

Rendered it so, Eternally !

*‘ Your very PERSON,
Becomes for us all ...
Our Way, our Passover – and our Bridge
... From life to Life !
... From love to Love !
... From fellowship to Fellowship !
... From the constricting effects of suffering in our life,
To the liberating joyfulness of Life, in Your Person ;
... From our love’s struggle with evil’s isolating power,
To the luminous intimacy of communing with LOVE, in You ;
... From human fellowship, disintegrating through death’s insistent claims,
To the Fellowship founded on the faithfulness of the Divine Persons !’*

*‘ O Paschal Brother ! Our Human God !
In transforming all our suffering, all evil, death itself ...
Your OPEN humanity
Has itself become our ACCESS, our WELCOME
Into Your Eternal Circle of Love !
Into ‘ the Now ’ of Divine Intimacy !’*

*Truly, our suffering,
– Both for ourselves and for those we suffer –
Becomes a Paschal opening
Into the heart of our Abba-God :
Our Christlike suffering opens God’s arms
– Outstretched to embrace us .*

*Our death – within Christ's –
Opens God's heart
To become one with His Beloved,
And thus, with us :
Together, in the Dance of Love !
Charged, with the Spirit of Life !
At rest, in the Spirit of Peace .*

1 Poem 1037, Year 13 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community Brisbane, May 2011.

2 Jn 11:16

3 Cf Jn 20:28

Their Ache Becomes My Ache ¹

*I can no more WITHHOLD my prayer of loving compassion
From the suffering heart of the world ... from all hearts who ache,
Than I could REFUSE
To sweep a lone, whimpering infant up into my arms !*

*Their ache becomes my ache :
My praying heart belongs to them !
Their outward ache – for relief from suffering,
Is, inwardly,
An ache to-be-held, to-be-companioned
... An ache to-be-given-over-to-Another,
An ache for Love's Torrent, Christ's Spirit,
To inflow, to overflow, and to TRANSFORM !*

*IN Christ,
Such prayer enchalices their life with mine
... The very entirety of their suffering with mine !
It enchalices their lifeblood
WITH my life "given up for them".
Both flow forth from Christ's own Calvary's Eucharist
Poured out for us, to the fondest of Fathers
... Whose own heart ached with compassion,
To share His Son's Lifeblood with us all .*

1 Poem 1038, Year 13 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community Brisbane, June 2011.

2 Cf modern Eucharistic Consecration Prayer.

The Ache for Intimacy ¹

(Latin adjective – INTIMA : inmost, innermost, personal.)

*A deepening desire for human intimacy
Becomes an ache ... an ache for UNION
– Uniting with what is specifically personal,
With what is innermost in the other .
... This is through sexual exchange, for many,
Or, for even more, through mutual tenderness,
And through the sharing of deep feelings,
... Even to the blossoming of wedded spirits .*

With union, the ache subsides, and sublimates ...

*Into something beyond desire
– Certainly beyond any self-focussed satisfaction –
... Into a reality that ABIDES :
The joy and peace of becoming one together .*

*Intimacy with God is profoundly the same
– And wondrously different !
Our yearning for intimacy with the Divine
Comes not of ourselves, but is IMPLANTED
... As a gift from a God with a human heart
– From Calvary's Jesus .*

*His fiery longing for union with Abba
Is a template for ours
– A longing not merely to the imitated,*

*But IDENTICAL with Christ's ...
Such that we personify Him, to others .*

*Yet the intent of our human heart
Is so fragile !
Our faith, so fickle !
Our eyes wander ... our hearts tremble ... our purposes dissolve .
The wondrous beauty of Abba's Gaze
No longer seems enough !
Distracted ... we turn aside ...
To possessions, to power, to pleasure .
Creaturely attractions
Seem ... so tangible,
So much closer, so more real
—Than the God of all life !
Than Love itself !
Our hearts ache for the creature
... Deserting the Creator .
Or we ache for union with a tinsel god,
... Trading our hearts for trifles
—For a mirage of treasure, power that evaporates, minutes of pleasure !*

*Our hearts feel unanchored ... adrift, aimless, lost ...
Aching again for God's encompassing Fellowship .*

*Oh ! What to do ?
Thank God ... that God IS God !
Thank God, who, with infinite fondness,
Gathers our bruised hearts, in loving hands
Re-shaping them in the likeness of His Son's ;*

Resuscitating them with His Beloved's divine desire
... With the warmth and wonder of His intimacy with Abba !

Prayers of thanks well up within our hearts :

'Dearest Abba, the Mystery of Your Love

Simply overwhelms us !

While it's true that we falter

In the very midst of Your friendship ...

And even in the embrace of Your Fellowship,

And continue to fail ...

Still, our weaknesses wondrously demonstrate

That unconditional trust in You

– Not our strivings –

Is all that MATTERS !

Indeed, these same weaknesses

Mysteriously manifest

Both the immediacy and open-endedness

Of Your compassion,

And the depthless kindness

Of Your soft-hearted tenderness

To us' .

