

Folio Fifty-Eight

Folio 58

Poems 1140 – 1159

- 1140 [O What a Mystery !](#)
- 1141 [Cheek to Cheek](#)
- 1142 [The Gift of Knowledge](#)
- 1143 [The Gift of Understanding](#)
- 1144 [All Prayer Is a Homecoming](#)
- 1145 [Becoming Paschal Hearts](#)
- 1146 [Pray for Love's Victory](#)
- 1147 [Jesus' Centering Relationship](#)
- 1148 [Love's Journey Is One of Love](#)
- 1149 [So Wondrously ...](#)
- 1150 [Co-responsive Love](#)
- 1151 [Graced Awe](#)
- 1152 [Grace for Others, Changes Me](#)
- 1153 [Alive in Our Eternal Humanity](#)
- 1154 [Love Streaming from One to the Other](#)
- 1155 [Proclaiming God's Abiding Presence](#)
- 1156 [Our Trans-historical Humanity](#)
- 1157 [Our Essentially Dependent Nature](#)
- 1158 [The Spirit of Subtlety](#)
- 1159 [I Will Gather You Together](#)

O What a Mystery ¹

Stanza 1

*Jesus Ascended is GOD-WHO-IS-WITH-US,
Our key Intimate, our closest possible Friend
... Wondrously uniting, in deepest communion,
Our humanity with the Divine !*

Stanza 2

*Eternally, however ...
in the Spirit, and open to our senses in the Sacraments,
He utterly transcends our shared humanity ...
As God-who-is-utterly-other
— Because, even as the key RELATIONAL OTHER of our
lives,
He is wholly beyond us ! Wholly SURPASSES us !
O What a Mystery !*

Cheek to Cheek ¹

Suffering , wholly lived out, with Christ,

Makes the person's face TRANSPARENT

Revealing their inner reality ...

The 'face' of their spirit

Which reflects that of Jesus

Who holds such a one so very close

"... Cheek to cheek"! ²

1 Poem 1141, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, May 2013.

2 Cf Hos 11:4.

The Gift of Knowledge ¹

The Spirit's gift of KNOWLEDGE

Allows us 'to personally experience' and so, 'to know'

The Divine Person of the living Christ : Jesus Risen and Ascended

... Overwhelmingly, through SACRAMENT.

Firstly, we have graced access to Jesus' Divinity ...

Through the PRIMAL SACRAMENT — of His Humanity,

And, by extension, through the COMPANIONING SACRAMENTS, of the Church.

These latter involve firstly, OUR OWN HUMANITY becoming involved

— Through specific forms of human ritual, and both verbal and body language,

... All of which He shares with us as brothers and sisters ;

— And secondly, through specific THINGS OF EARTH, which He also co-opts as HUMAN symbols

... Water, oils, bread and wine .

Above all else, what Jesus Risen and Ascended

Most deeply wants to share WITH US

Is the CENTRAL RELATIONSHIP of His life on earth

— His relationship as Beloved SON, with His Abba-God

... A relationship TRANSFORMED for Him, and us, through the Paschal Mystery .

Equally, this unique relationship is only ever ENABLED,

For Abba and Himself,

Through the Enabling Presence of Their Spirit of Love .

The Spirit's gift of KNOWLEDGE

Allows us 'to personally experience' and so 'to know'

Abba's dwelling within us, IN Christ,

Accompanied, at times, by transient sensings, glimpses

Into the Spirit's indwelling us.

We sense this abiding of the Spirit within us, only symbolically :

- AS our hearts' INNER FLAME ... as our light, our zeal, and our creativity*
- AS the DIVINE BREATH ... Vitalizing all relationship, all groupings*
- AS the DIVINE ENERGY ... enabling all loving, communing, and uniting*
- AS the DOVE ... initiator of mission, bearer of both peace and joy .*

The Gift of Understanding ¹

*The Spirit's gift of UNDERSTANDING
Consists in God's deep revelations TO us
As to what UNDER-LIES our surface understandings
Of our FAITH'S central mysteries.
It is not a matter of infused understandings.
Still, it is a SPECIAL grace
... Given to DEPTH our understanding
Of the things of God .*

*We are gifted with these understandings
Mostly, through inner listening ... and deeper receptivity,
And mostly through promptings, insights, and images that flow into open hearts.
Sometimes, however, in periods of crisis, suffering and confusion,
We are called to surrender even our receptivity,
And are moved to hand everything over to the Spirit.*

At this graced time, St Paul becomes our best guide :
“The Spirit COMES TO HELP US in our weakness,
For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly,
The Spirit Himself EXPRESSES OUR PLEAS
In a way that could NEVER BE PUT INTO WORDS,
And God who knows EVERYTHING IN OUR HEARTS,
*Knows PERFECTLY WELL what He means .”*²

With God’s grace, these ‘pleas’ become our ‘understandings’
... Inexpressible understandings !

1 Poem 1143, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, May 2013.

2 Rom 8:25, 26

All Prayer Is a Homecoming ¹

All prayer is a homecoming.
In prayer ... in an especial way in Eucharist ...
We are gently CALLED HOME
... Home to the heart-warming Fellowship
That CENTERS our lives :
... To the radiantly welcoming Face of Abba,
... And to the familiarly human Face of Him
Who is its lovingly perfect reflection
— The Paschal Jesus,
... And to the Vitalizing Presence of Loyce, ²
Their wondrously Intimate Spirit !

Thus prayer, in this light,
Takes a full lifetime to complete
... Our 'Amen !' being sounded
As we arrive home
—As always, WITHIN Jesus Ascended—
... Passing into Abba's arms,
The homecoming Arms of Love !

1 Poem 1144, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woollowin Community, May 2013.

2 'Loyce' is my familiar name for the Spirit, from Love, Joy and Peace, pronounced 'LOY-CEE' .

Becoming Paschal Hearts ¹

We sinners ...

Gifted with forgiveness, become grateful PRAYING HEARTS,

Who, through humility are transformed into SERVING HEARTS,

Who, suffused with love are further transformed into CRUCIFIED HEARTS

Who then can offer their lives WITH JESUS

In His holocaust surrender to His Abba —

“Into Your hands, we entrust our spirits !” ²

Abba, the tenderest of all fathers,

Overflowing with compassion

For His Beloved ... and for us, in Him,

Draws His humanity, and ours, in His,

Into a Divinely transforming Embrace !

Thus, UPLIFTED continually in the Glorified Jesus,

Our EVER-RISING HEARTS

Become HEARTS, EVER-ASCENDING ...

Grateful and exhilarated, TO RETURN Abba’s Embrace !

Let all hearts change !

¹ Poem 1145, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2013.

² Cf Lk 23,46.

Pray for Love's Victory ¹

Sin is NOT a Mystery — as is love.

While initially, and on the surface,

It is attractive and adrenalinizing

... In the long term, and at its core,

Sin is isolating, irrational chaos,

... Mindless repetition ... sterility

... The absence of anything of worth

—NOTHINGNESS !

Why does anyone, ever then,

Choose a limited human love

The EXCLUDES God's limitless love ?

Why ?

As such, sin is the sheer, bewildering choice of a fool.

It is a CHOICE that disconnects us, ultimately,

From the RELATIONSHIPS

That integrate our lives .

*In such a crisis,
We need to pray to humanity's only saviour,
The humble and gentle Jesus of Nazareth ...*

*Who draws us to Himself
To Paschal wholeness and community*

—Before sin's insinuating ENVY

Robs us of all our innocence, and hope :

Abba, have mercy ...

Jesus, have mercy ...

Spirit, have mercy ...

Jesus' Centering Relationship ¹

*The modern 'search' for God
Is for the God sought in interpersonal relationships
... That Mystery at the heart of all genuine relating.
If graced with humility,
Such seekers ARE DRAWN into this Mystery itself,
Which CENTERS all authentic relationships .*

*Here they sense the presence of Jesus, who, as our brother
Is the TEMPLATE for all human ties .
Here, Jesus seeks to attract us, to the relationship
He treasures above all else :
His wondrous Relationship with His Abba
... The most loving of all fathers .*

*In sharing with us the depths of Divine tenderness
And a bondless compassion,
Jesus seeks to invite us into their 'source'
—That same enabling Relationship with wholly centers His life
And, through His Ascension to Abba,
Amazingly centers ALL of humanity's ties,
And all those, within Creation itself !*

But the generosity of Jesus-IN-God
Knows no limits :
He urges upon all authentic human 'relaters'
The self-same DESTINY this Relationship promised Himself
—A share in the Divine Circle of Love
... The Eternal Fellowship of GIVING AND RECEIVING EQUALLY .

Love's Journey Is One of Love ¹

Love is the reason for love

Love is love's motivation

Love begins with love

Love's journey is one of love

Love's destiny is love itself:

Love uniting lover and beloved .

So Wondrously ¹

O Abba ...

How simply, how tenderly,

You rise within my heart ...

Your fragrant Breathing stills me

Your graced Enrapture fills me, ²

So wondrously ...

Your Love gives rise to mine .

1 Poem 1149, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2013.

2 My general inspiration was St John of God's The Loving Flame; The underlined words are a quote from Sr M. Flower's translation of the same poem. The capital in 'Breathing' is mine. Author.

Co-responsive Love ¹

While God's is an enabling love

Ours is a responsive love :

While God's love for us

Enables our receiving of it,

Even our love FOR God

Is also enabled by God .

Yet in both the receiving and giving,

We freely choose to be thus enabled —

Choosing thus to be co-responsive with God .

Graced Awe ¹

In EVERY movement of our heart to God

Awe initiates the movement,

Animating Creation's 'compass'

—A graced natural awe, deeply grounded in faith .

This is as true for suffering-with-Christ

As it is for graced exhilaration

... Combined, as we glimpse God's majesty in a well of pain.

Thus awe is at home in our times of lowering skies,

As it is in our kaleidoscopic dawns .

Paradoxically, God often works positively in our spirits

In the context of 'unseeing' hearts ... puzzled, uncomprehending hearts

Wholly unaware of being "renewed by a spiritual revolution" ! ²

God's quite like the sunlight acting upon a seed

In the dark womb of the earth ...

Drawing it towards itself until, finally, it erupts into life !

Similarly, graced awe can draw our hearts to new horizons,

And uplift our spirits ... to marvel at God's ways !

And, just as faith begins the movement,

It also reaps the harvest — of joy !

1 Poem 1151, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, July 2013.

2 Eph 4:23.

Grace for Others, Changes Me ¹

*Led by the Spirit,
We are at times sensitized
To co-suffer with Christ FOR OTHERS
... Sacrificing for a family member,
... Deepening one's tolerance for another's unfeeling behaviour,
... Experiencing graced empathy for those struggling with sin,
... And espousing Christian awe
For the Spirit's many mysterious creative paths to Calvary.*

*As our hearts open to those who suffer,
We become grateful for our own vulnerabilities
Within the flow of God's healing compassion.
This is BECAUSE the grace that flows to others,
Courses through my spirit AS WELL,
Readying it ... for a change of heart .
In changing them, grace changes me .*

Alive in Our Eternal Humanity ¹

*Through grace we are moved
From being a human being, seeking to raise one's self
To God's level,
... Both to one who surrenders his future
To the humble-hearted Son of Man,
Our crucified brother,
... Then to one who is radically uplifted, in Jesus Risen,
To Abba's ennobling of our humanity !
Ultimately, as 'the many in the One',
We have our humanity utterly transformed
—Openly DIVINIZED in Jesus Ascended !*

*As such, NOW THROUGH GRACE ...
We are gifted both with the Promise
And with the veiled experience
Of an Eternal Humanity
... Lived out IN Jesus Ascended .*

Our humanity, thus, has been borne on a journey
From one seeking to be self-empowered
... To a humbled humanity blest with the grace
Of co-suffering with Christ,
... To a raised humanity, beloved of Abba,
Deluged with the joy of resurrected Life.
... To an ascendant, uplifted humanity
Honoured, in Jesus Ascended,
With a Divine Father !
And with an Eternal Humanity !

Our Divinized Humanity enjoys – even now, through grace – being wholly en-Spirited

BOTH, with Jesus' compassion
... As we sit in the gutter with a despairing brother or sister ;
And with the EXPERIENCE of Christ Himself
... In His exhilaration as the Ascended Son,
Dancing the Dance of Love with Abba !

Love Streaming from One to the Other ¹

As Gabriel's calming words at Nazareth,

"Mary, do not be afraid", ²

Settled gently within her open spirit,

Mary's heart of faith

Felt deep joy in Abba's murmured assurance

'Yes, you are to carry God,

Because God is to carry you !'

Unlike Mary,

We might conceive of God's Presence within us

As just-for-me ...

But God, in entering His world through us,

Is within us, as in Mary

As a STREAM of love

... A springtime stream overflowing its banks,

Deluging all our lives with love !

The wonder of grace, then,

Is that when it is gifted to us

We become the honoured portal

For God's entry into others' lives

... Love streaming from one to the other .

1 Poem 1154, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, August 2013.

2 Lk 1:30

Proclaiming God's Abiding Presence ¹

Mary receives the Word
Not only within her faith-consciousness,
But within her own flesh :
Her body vibrating with the echoes of the Divine
Resonating, in time, with it
— Filling her voice with song
Freeing her spirit to SOAR,
“My soul glorifies my Lord !” ²

As the months of the year unfold,
She herself becomes a proclamation
Of God's ABIDING Presence
... Within a humanity, pregnant with hope .

¹ Poem 1155, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, August 2013.

² Lk 1:46.

Our Trans-historical Humanity ¹

“Man is not completely historical.”

(Benedict xvi, Osservatorio Romano March 15, 2006.)

*While deeply grounded in time,
And in the evolution of our earth
Humankind’s communal and personal trajectories
Are powerfully and intrinsically influenced
By their relationship to the TRANS-HISTORAL Trinity,
And equally by the Life they live in Christ, NOW !*

For those who are COMMITTED to Christ’s Indwelling Presence

*All earth-bound decisions they take, are, at heart,
United to His trans-historical HUMANITY ...
And thus are, to varying degrees, trans-historical decisions.
Indeed, “the deepest meaning of history, goes beyond history
And finds its full explanation in the God-man” ²
... Such that, those incorporated in Christ,
Live within history, yet transcend space and time !*

*Marvellously, IN Christ’s trans-historical Person,
Jesus gives us, “continuity to our being, and communicability between persons “ ³
So that, amazingly, we are able to transcend ourselves, IN, Christ
... To COMMUNE WITH OTHERS, across space, and across time .*

1 Poem 1156, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woollowin Community, August 2013.

2 Pope John Paul 11, in Memory and Identity.
2006.

3 Pope Benedict xvi, Osservatorio Romano March 15,
2006.

Our Essentially Dependent Nature ¹

“To pray is to accept our vulnerability.” ²

It is to be open to humankind’s necessary reliance on God

... For wholeness, and for healing.

Yes, to pray, is to allow grace to enfold us

In our own essentially DEPENDENT nature ...

For without God, we will surely damage

Our own best future,

And thus become un-anchored, Disoriented — even lost !

Thus prayer allows God’s Spirit

To re-orient us, in our confusion and vulnerability,

To our true Destiny

— A home, together, in God .

¹ Poem 1157, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woollowin Community, September 2013.

² Thomas Merton.

The Spirit of Subtlety ¹

*To pray contemplatively
Is TO BE LED, lovingly,
Into the Mystery of Divine Intimacy .*

*O Spirit of Subtlety
— Ready us always, to be sensitive
To Your simple promptings,
As You lead us, ever so gently,
To Abba's Presence within every presence.
Ready us always, to allow ourselves to be aligned to Jesus,
Our one true compass,
Who points us unerringly to Love's Presence, within
... Even in hearts of darkness .*

*O Spirit of Subtlety
In Abba's Embrace of us, NOW, in Jesus Ascended,
Prompt us, each to be DRAWN
To all others in Christ, within this Embrace
— The wondrous LOCUS and TEMPLATE of all prayer
... Be that everyday praying, Eucharist, or contemplative surrender .
Indeed this Embrace
Is the wondrous LOCUS and TEMPLATE of all encounters
With the Divine !*

I Will Gather You Together ¹

Love says,
“I think thoughts of peace, my people,
And not of affliction ...
You will call upon me,
And I will answer you ...
I will gather you, together,
To the place from which I exiled you” . ²

Abba, take and receive
All that I am
... Together with ALL WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST.
Deepen my covenant with You,
So that my graced experience
Of sharing in the lived injustice done to others
... As their pain unfolds ...
May move my spirit, to the deepest empathy
As You fulfil my deep hopes for them.

My special desire is that ALL OUR HEARTS CHANGE,
And continually open TO THE EUCHARISTIC SACRIFICE
... At the heart of the Paschal Mystery
— So that we can say of each of us
‘How wondrous, how mysterious is God’s gift of grace !’

1 Poem 1159, The Day of Preparation for the Blue Mountains Retreat, Coffs Harbour, October 2013. 2
Jer 29:11-14 (excerpts)

NOTE: This is a prayer for all those affected by, moved by, The Royal Commission into Institutional Abuse of Children ... and beyond that.