

Feet Washers, All ¹

(Jesus, at the Last Supper, to His disciples :)

*I've waited, waited for this moment,
I've love you, loved you to the end,
Eager to share, more fully, my love of Abba
– To bathe you in His love ...
Yet to leave you IN this world,
But NOT, in this world's care !*

*As servant of Abba's love, I take this towel,
And like a servant, put my tunic aside.
I hope you'll understand
What I am to do for you :
I have come from God
To wash feet ...
And am returning to God.
Abba has entrusted EVERYTHING
Into my hands,
And now, with them,
I choose to wash your feet.*

*Nat's first: in you there is no guile
– No hesitation to receive the GOOD NEWS,
And to pass it on, unchanged.*

Now to James, my 'brother' in blood :
This water is thicker than blood,
And, with it, you'll wash the feet of GOD'S kin !

To Jude, fond cousin of my youth :
LOVE to serve the Family of the Lord
– What touches you, yourself, attend to last.

To Phil, who longs to see my Father's Face :
It is Abba who, with MY hands,
Now washes your feet.

And Judas, whose exacting care saves us from waste :
Waste not this chance to reclaim my love !
Dear Judas, return to your first love.

And Tom, so lovingly I wash your feet :
Channel your love for God, for me
To Abba's poor – His special ones.
Be you too – their way, their truth, their life.

To Andy, whose feet are those of a fisherman :
Fish for hearts, dried out by sin ;
Bathe them in God's love.

Matt, with your tax-collecting skills,
Sup with sinners again ...
To offer them – love's dividends !
To Big Jim, so prone to power's lure,
May this water both soften
And transfigure your big heart
... To embrace a thousand more.

*To you John, closest to my Father's heart –
Nurture the Church of God ;
Reveal Abba's love for all.*

*To you Peter, hesitating yet again ...
These feet once walked upon the stormy waters,
Then sank, as did your heart ;
Humble now that heart :
Extend your feet, now, to your Master's care
Then do the same, to all –
The lowest servant's call!*

(Jesus, to all :)

*Washing feet is what we all need to do,
Washing feet proclaims the Good News –
Humbly winning hearts for the Kingdom.
I have just cleansed you, with water :
My Father soon will purify you,
And renew you, with my blood.
With it, you too, will wash sin's stain
From the hearts of YOUR disciples !*

*Copy what I do :
I am your Adonai –
As is 'I AM'
Who, in His Love,
Gives all to me.
So too – as servants to each other –
Pour out your love, like this water, for ALL.
Humble service for the lowly and the poor*

*Bears fruit in communion
Which is the Spirit's gift alone :
As I was chosen to wash men's feet,
So love to wash feet with me –
This is communion.*

*Be welcomed into people's homes and hearts,
As feet-washers ;
If unwelcomed, shake the dust from YOUR feet
And leave them, whatever their number,
To their own choices and priorities ...
Indeed, one of you will show his heels to me, ²
Preferring the company of darkness.*

*Feet-washing readies us for Table :
Our Passover Thanksgiving
To the Father
... Drawing us, sons and daughters,
From being sinners
– Obeisant to Satan, lord of death –
To become servants,
Glorying in the One Who Lives.*

*So now, I your servant, ask you :
Please take this broken Bread of Mine
– This broken Body of sin –
And take it into your own broken lives,
Into the world's brokenness,
And be certain –
Life WILL RISE
In you!*

*Please, take this Wine of Mine
As Blood, poured out in love, for you –
Abba's Covenant of Love
... An Open Promise
To renew.*

*This Cup of Love!
This Bread of Joy!
Come all – as KIN,
Come share with me,
Our Abba's Feast!*

1 Poem 437 Day 19, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 23rd 2001.

2 'To show one's heels, in Aramaic is 'to betray'.

Discernment ¹

Discernment
Is a gleam of hope
Within the womb
Of Abba's Desire
... For me, for us.

This glimmer DIVINE
Is of the Glory Cloud within.
Our heart's ear
Wakens to its call –
– The Word of God
Alive in us!

Faith opens our spirit
To respond :
God's Breath of Love
Ignites the heart's embers
To flame anew ...
To light the way
For the body's mind
... And the mind's hand ...
To outwardly respond.

*Moved by the Spirit, we now discern
With hearts that KNOW ...
With eyes that, ever delight in,
The many faces of the Wounded One
... Whose feet we wash, yet again.*

*There, we rest, so still ...
Within
The Father's will ;
There we grow as Child
Within Abba's Embrace
... Animated by His Spirit Dream.
This is discernment.*

“Your Will be Done” ¹

(Jesus in Gethsemane :)

*My heart's in turmoil as I walk this path,
My co-servants in my wake,
Their hearts murmuring fear...
Faith leaching away.
The Kingdom's Feast of Love is near complete,
Our New Covenant's signed IN WORDS
... Signed, but far from sealed
– For it's to be sealed in sacrificial blood !
 O heart, tremulous with fear,
 O Abba, Abba !
 Plumb the depths of my fear,
 And strengthen my resolve ...*

*As we pass from moonlight into the pale shadow
Cast by the Temple's Pinnacle above,
I call Your words to heart, my Abba –
Of “THOSE who live in darkness,
And in the shadow of death”... ²
And feel, tonight, it's Your own beloved!
O Abba, comfort all those who will live, thus,
And comfort now, Your own trembling son ...*

Ab, there's the Gethsemane oil-press :
At this moment I feel as crushed as those olives,
Giving up their oil, drop by drop
To nurture lives, to renew, and to beautify,
And to act as salve, for wounds and pains.
I fear that humanity's enemies now, and always,
Will demand the last drops from me.
Yet Abba, whatever the future, it's You I trust
... I take refuge in Your love.

Here we are, within the eerie olive grove :
These trees are like men, grown old in sin
– Hardened, twisted, misshapen and inflexible.
So my faithful followers, pray now with me ;
Pray that your hearts, not yield ...
That your resolve's not whisked away with this wind.
Take up the sword – of prayerful courage –
To counter all your fears!
Grieve not for me ... but for your true destiny.
Yet, I do need YOUR strength
... To help me through this night,
And, as I go aside to pray,
Keep awake the eyes of your intent,
Lest fear be given legs and flee!

O Abba, loving Parent, always HERE,

Stay close to my heart this night.

Companion all my hopes – and fears !

Those rapturous calls for Your Kingdom's birth

– Amidst waving palm fronds – are stifled now

... Stillborn, it seems, floundering in fickleness and fears.

Yet ... its birth NEEDS to come, but as all births do

– Through labour's stress and pain !

I'm sure Your prophets' words, are meant FOR ME

– That "pierced" and "bruised" I'll be ... ³

That I'll become "a thing despised", "disfigured" and "forsaken" !

So Abba, Abba ... please LIGHTEN the burden

That Your love-for-humanity places on me...

Still – NOT my will : let Yours be done !

Yes...a "sapling", "lamb" and "servant" I'll be, yes, ALL !

But please, please Father of all tenderness,

Lessen love's load for me ...

Still – not my will: let Yours be done !

Already, I bear humanity's "stripes" ...

Feeling, very much, like OUR PEOPLE'S sacrificial "lamb".

In this agony of prayer ...

I am distressed, to the very point of death :

Heart pounding, sweating BLOOD

– Love's crimson tears –

Filling up the cup of suffering, FOR THEM ...

Still – NOT my will : let Yours be done !

Oh! I fall on my face, yet reverence Your adorable WILL :

Let me avoid a little of sin's final fruits ...

*Knowing everything is possible with You ;
Still – only as You would have it.
Yet, let it not be a death, GRUDGINGLY OFFERED,
But the fragrance of a son's love-filled sacrifice
For the most loving of all Fathers –
The Father of my own precious sisters and brothers !*

*Still, Still, my spirit is downcast,
By the vast depths of sin's EVIL ... unredressed !
It lashes and lacerates my heart
... Still willing, but drained,
... Emptied by compassion, for my kin.
And now – bruised by stark disappointment too :
Peter James and John ... you've left me stranded – fighting fear ALONE !
Your starting strength of purpose ... ebbing away in sleep.
Your once OPEN spirits, now seriously weakened by flesh !
Please continue ... I beg you ... to watch WITH me.*

*Abba, Abba ... Blessed, faithful Father,
There's no one fully at my side, but You.
Please let the fury, the viciousness, of sin's hidden intent,
Not come true for me –
The murder of Your Beloved!
Is there not some OTHER way ?
STILL ... STILL ... STILL ... I place my will,
Within Your love, within Your will!*

(Returning to the Apostles :)

*O Again! Weak-hearted friends ...
Now fully asleep – the sleep of DISREGARD :
I'm so sorry : your test has come – and gone !
You've missed your chance –
To strengthen, and to prove, your resolve.
My fate is now in murderers' hands ;
Your OWN, on a chosen, ambivalent path.*

*Here comes sad Judas too! Like a homing pigeon ...
Returning to the garden of fellowship he knew.
His 'new' group is really, quite menacing –
Well armed, by jealous priests' intent.
Why? Why? Judas, Why the kiss? Why, "Rabbi" ?
"Rabbi" is a front for your deceit ;
O did not teach you thus ... only you yourself :
To be so two-faced in your love ...
Is so unworthy of your true self, Judas.
Your kiss, tragically, is a KISS OF DEATH
... Both for you, and for me.*

*O! How lowly is your valuing of love :
The Son of Man – for the PRICE of a poor slave
Friendship traded – for a handful of coin
Fellowship with God – for a passing pittance
And Paradise – for the hollowness of greed !*

As for you, brigands ... WHOM do you seek?

When you demand 'Jesus of Nazareth' ...

I reply "I AM, He"!⁴

Ponder, ponder this answer, O Israelites, within your hearts ...

And take stock, just WHOSE you are !

Sadly ... you seem ...

Unwilling to seek CHANGE.

You foxes, why do HIDE black purpose ?

Why collude behind my back?

Why set out to capture me ...

Not in the sunshine of my Temple days,

But in the night of the heart's deceit ?

(Turning now to Peter :)

Peter, sheathe your sword! Sheathe that Peter-of-old.

All who seek to solve crises, with force,

Will be forced to die to what they've LOST

– Freedom's birth ...from gentleness –

And lose ALL, of what they've 'gained' !

My Father's way is NOT 'having the numbers',

But seeking the heart's life-source ...

And loving life into one's 'enemies'

(Jesus to all about, as He heals Malchus :)

Abba's love heals your ear ...

But are there no ears

To hear His song of love,

The song of the Kingdom.

(Jesus to his captors :)

*I cannot, and would not,
Trade my disciples' lives for mine ;
So I ask you, to let them go ...
And spare me a minute ... to share my heart with them.*

(Jesus to His Disciples :)

*“Let not your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me ...
I'm going now to prepare a place for you”⁵
– A home in the heart of my Father.
Follow me NOW, and you'll find –
 Your way home :
To the source of life, the source of love!*

*Here, the Father waits for you
 As sons of His Love,
– To leave behind the land of sin
 For His Land of Promise ;
– There to meet Him, face to face ...
Never again to disown your heritage
 ... The Spirit of Family ;
– Always to be at home in the heart
 Of His Love ...
Anchored in trust, alive in love !
Now, friends, make your choice :
– Walk this Way with me now ... together
 Or walk away, alone.*

(Jesus much later, in His prison cell :)

O Abba! Abba! All have fled Your love

In abandoning me ...

Except faith-filled John, and fearful Peter.

I am forgotten

... "As good as dead, IN THEIR HEARTS,

Something DISCARDED." ⁶

Each has sought the night of his intent :

By denying the call WITHIN,

He'll come to experience his sin's demands,

And timidity's deadly price.

O Abba, O Abba, tender comforter,

Put new heart and a new spirit

Within them.

Let them experience, WHOSE they are !

Be with me,

As I continue on Your Way

Of sacrificial love –

Your will be done ...

1 Poem 439 Day 20 Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 24th 2001.

2 Lk 1:79

3 All quotes in this and the next stanza are from the Suffering Servants passages, in ISAIAH.

4 Jn 18:5

5 Jn 14:1,2

6 Ps 31:12 (J.B.)

As for an Only Son ¹

(The reader speaks :)

*Companioning You, Jesus,
In Your journey into agony,
... Moving down from the supper room
Under the pinnacle of the Temple ...
I feel your deep sadness for all sinners,
Your depthless empathy for all sin's victims.
As we trudge slowly up the Kedron valley
 To the garden of olives,
 This heavy-hearted pilgrimage
 Is there in every season of every life –
 – As a new call for each one's life :
Inviting each to be ONE with You, O Suffering Servant !*

The call is to lament, and “to mourn, as for an only son” ²

*– For all those lives, dislocated by sin,
– For all, whose hearts, burdened by sin,
Wander ... LOST ... through life,
Looking for love ...
For a loving Abba's embrace.*

¹ Poem 440 Day 20, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 24th 2001.

² Am 8:10

Thoughts Laid Bare ¹

*Following Jesus, as He was led, a captive,
Before the High Priest,
Peter tries hard, to meld with the attendants, around their fire.
And while Jesus is physically struck
For speaking His Truth,
Peter “bursts into tears” for tragically disowning ²
This same Word of Truth—the light of his life!*

*Later, after the High Priest soldiers spit upon and mock Jesus
... Futilely trying to blindfold “the Light of the world” ... ³
He, who is to liberate all humanity,
Is BOUND, and bundled off to Pilate !
There, He is dressed in imperial purple and crowned with vicious briars,
– So as to mock and devalue His Kingship
... Just as surely as they devalue their won worth, in doing so.*

*A vulnerable Pilate then parades Jesus before a mindless crowd,
Manipulated by the underlings of some of the Chief Priests,
Who brazenly DEMAND –
“The Law wants Him dead
– As the Passover’s communal victim, in our stead :
Sacrifice this “Son of God” ! ⁴
This scapegoating declaration, denigrating Jesus’ Divinity,
Alarms the superstitious Pilate.*

*Moreover, Jesus’ persistent SILENCE to his questioning,
Intensifies Pilate’s panic !
This, combined with the priestly rejection
Of Jesus’ kingship, for that of Caesar’s,
Forces Pilate into his own scapegoating tactics ...
He’s all yours – your “victim” to dispatch :
Do with Him as you will! ⁵*

*The crowd, and its Chief Priest protagonists,
Now, themselves, become captives – of their “own secret thoughts, laid bare” : ⁶
With lives BOUND tight, by the Law
They become ever more tightly BOUND
By their COMMUNAL SIN, of seeking to crucify Jesus
... To NAIL the Free One to the tree.*

*Yet within three days
He, whom they thought
Was BOUND BY DEATH,
Releases His Spirit of Freedom
Into the lives of all, BOUND by sin,
Freeing them across all ages,
Freeing each, from WITHIN,
Drawing all together.*

1 Poem 441 Day 21 Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 25th 2001.

2 Lk 22:62

3 Jn 8:12

4 Lk 22:70

5 Cf Lk 23:25

6 Lk 2:35

I Am ... Every Person ¹

(Every reader to Jesus :)

Jesus, truly to varying degrees,

I am, in conscience,

EVERY PERSON in the unfolding drama

Of Your Passion and Death –

Peter, and each Temple priest,

Pilate, and his foreboding wife,

Herod, and the beloved disciple, John,

Each Roman and Jewish soldier,

Every member of the mindless crowd,

Calvary's centurion, and its 'nail-man',

The weeping women on the way,

The women standing by the Cross,

Mary, Your Mother and Co-sufferer,

And, above all – YOU.

Humanity's Springtime ¹

*Jesus,
On this stark, flint-hard, leafless timber
We hang You.
But ...
Your inner warmth,
Your radiant light within,
Causes buds to swell
– Green globules, promising life –
Bursting into blossom, in Easter's brightness,
Flush with Divine Vitality !
Yes Jesus – You are our spring ! ²
Humanity's Springtime !
Alive with the LIFE of God !*

¹ Poem 443. Day 21, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 25th 2001

² "Lent" as a word, means 'spring'. The Passover arrives typically, at the first full flush of spring.

Under the Olive Trees ¹

(Jesus, in Gethsemane, to Abba :)

O Abba !
Remember ME, look on ME :
For 'WE' have sinned against You,
And broken Your commandments ;
And You have given us over
To be plundered to captivity
– To death ! ²

So now do with me, as You will !
If You will, take my life from me :
I desire to be delivered from earth ³
And to BECOME EARTH again.' ⁴

You are blessed, O God of Compassion !
May Your Name be blessed for ever,
And may all things You have made
Bless You everlastingly ! ⁵

You have consecrated me
With Your Spirit ;
Chosen me as Your Beloved :
To be prophet to Your people,
To bring Your Justice to all hearts.
From now, I am a hidden gently voice,
No longer heard in public,
Comforting those crushed in spirit,
Keeping their flame alight.
I long to be a faithful witness to Your Justice :
Steadfast in Your light !
Moved by Your Spirit !
... Until Your Justice finds a home
In all hearts – especially in those
Who long to see Your Face.

*Blessed Father of all that lives !
You created our spirits, and set them free !
You give us the earth and its fruit,
You breathe life into our hearts,
And give life to all that lives !*

(Abba replies to Jesus, in Gethsemane :)

*Beloved Son,
I ask You to restore my people
To their inheritance.
I will companion You, through it all,
Conforming Your life, to Mine.*

*I Abba, have chosen You
To be the New Covenant of My Love,
The One who will
– Enlighten darkened hearts
– Give the blind new eyes
– Free those held captive
– And release those
Who live in death's shadow.*

*I am Your life's fountain ...
All Your vitality comes from Me,
No honour but Mine to give.
All Your trust is rewarded :
I will speak a new Word
Within Your heart
... Good News that RENEWS
... A New Song that GIVES LIFE !*

1 Poem 444. Day 21, Douglas Park 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 25th 2001

2 This Stanza relies strongly on TOB 3: 3, 4

3 This Stanza relies strongly on TOB 3: 5, 6

4 This phrase has a strong resonances with 'adam' (Heb.) and 'humanus' (L.)
– Both meaning 'earth' ...Thus Paul's 'New Adam', and Paul's 'New Humanity'.

5 This Stanza relies strongly on TOB 3: 11

6 The body of this poem onwards, relies lightly, on Is 42: 1-9

Detached ¹

The grace I ask for – is to be
DETACHED FROM EITHER ...
Being singled out, or unnoticed
Having my voice heard, or unheard
Hearing good news, or bad
Viewing what delights, or dissatisfies
Enjoying what pleases, or displeases
Sensing what stimulates, or bores
Being thanked, or taken for granted.

DETACHED FROM EITHER ...
Feeling being loved, or unloved
Feeling loving, or unloving
Feeling free, or full of fears
Feeling satisfied, or upset
Feeling integrated, or ‘at sea’
Feeling enthusiastic, or unmotivated
Feeling appreciated, or blamed
Feeling creative, or uninspired.

DETACHED FROM EITHER ...
The new, or the old
The difficult, or the easy
The past, or the future
Success, or failure
Owning this, or that

*Living in this room, or that
Preferring this process, or that.*

DETACHED FROM EITHER ...

*This friend, or that
This priest or parish, or that
This spirituality, or that
This sacrifice or suffering, or that
This consolation, or that
This form of prayer, or that
This life-path, or that
This Presence of God, or that.*

Only this is needed :

To ACCEPT forgiveness

To FORGIVE warmly

To AVOID what's bad

To SEEK what's good

To ACT justly

LOVE tenderly

WALK humbly

With our God.

The Way to Life ¹

(Jesus :)

*As I accept this cross, this yoke of sin,
I feel sin's intense weight press down on me :
While You, Abba, sense YOUR PEOPLE'S palpable sighs of relief!
I fall under sin's deceptively heavy burden :
Yet You, Abba, KNOW YOUR PEOPLE will now rise again !*

*As I accept, with trust, Simon's offered help,
Your people also accept, with love, their feeling of being rescued.
Thus, I pray reassurance to the weeping women,
Urging them now to focus on their own and their children's needs.*

*I fall again ... sin tempting me to stay down :
Your love – their hope – urges me to rise.
I flinch as sin bares my dignity to the crowd :
You exult in THEIR future dignity, as Your children !*

*I clench my teeth as sin hammers nails into my raw flesh :
Oh! How You yearn to fully heal Your People's wounds!
As I shudder in pain, to take my "upright" weight on the cross –
You rejoice that THEY'LL walk upright in Your Home again !*

*To you, my people, gathered around this cross ... I say,
My true home is with Abba – to him I am returning ;
To YOU I leave Our Spirit of Love :
This Gift of Ours, will truly reveal Our Love for you,*

*And will form in you ... hopeful, faithful, joy-filled hearts.
I'm always murmuring to Abba, how much faith you need ...
Be certain : that all your battles with Satan, have ALREADY been won !
So, keep close to your heart, Our Promise ...
"Our Spirit is always to be with you."*

*Dearest Abba, You shelter me within Your love ...
As beloved son, You make me Your confidante,
You bolster my courage and confidence,
Calling me to be Your 'servant' and 'restorer' of Your People.*

*You send me to gather all of them to myself ²
So, IN me, You make them Your Light to this world
– To comfort the weary,
– To enliven those who falter.*

*Abba, You're always by my side – an inner companion :
I entrust all I am to You ...
I surrender the hopes and lives of ALL, to Your loving embrace.
I breathe out my last breath for them ...
IN my last breath to You,
Father of us all!*

Every Morning ¹

*Jesus Ascended,
Every morning You renew us
Encompassing us
Within Your Paschal intimacy, in Eucharist
... Reaffirming Abba's Covenant Love for us.*

*How wondrous Your faithfulness !
Truly, You are our inheritance !
With You, our spirits sing Your Risen Song
Of our New Uplifted Humanity
– Your rapturous Ascension's Song of Love to Abba !
Breathed forth in the Spirit ...
Your – our – Humanity,
Radiant with the same Spirit !*

A Glimmer of God ¹

*In His first Embodiment,
Jesus reveals Himself, initially,
In an infinitesimal glimmer
Of cellular light,
Within Mary ...
To become the most luminous of human beings
– The pinnacle of the first Creation !*

*In His second Embodiment,
God's Paschal Glory
Blazes forth from Jesus' very PERSON
Transforming ALL personal relationships,
Beginning the transfiguration of the universe itself –
Becoming the personification of the Second Creation of Humanity.
Wondrously, "in Him, we are claimed as God's own !" ²
... "Stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise." ³*

1 Poem 448 Day 23, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 27th 2001

2 Eph 1: 11

3 Eph 1 : 13

O Spirit of Detachment ¹

*Abba, grant me serenity in detachment.
Make my life, in all things, MODERATE
– Save for LOVE, and FREEDOM –
... So as to reverence Your Centering Presence,
And to reflect this to others.*

*Thus, O Spirit of Detachment, MOVE me –
From self-indulgent choices, to rejoicing continuously in Abba ;
From a self-gratifying attitude, to loving to PLEASE Abba alone ;
From subtly angling to have the focus return to self ...
To ensuring the entire focus of our life is Abba !*

*Also, O Spirit of Detachment, re-shape my heart :
From a secular, libertarian, open-endedness
... “Some is good, more is better : let the free, choose freely,”
To Christian self-denial, that seeks to have Abba
CENTRE both our consciousness, and our very being –
“Some is good, more according to the rhythm of need”
... Especially of the primal human need to ACCEPT
That ALL we experience and are, comes from God
The Serene Centre of WHO WE ARE TOGETHER.*

Enfolding Each Other ¹

*Abba enfolds us
Within
Jesus,
Who enfolds Abba
... Each enfolding the Other,
In the Spirit !*

Adorable ¹

Abba is ADORABLE ...

Welcoming the KISS of His Beloved Jesus, ²

Jesus is ADORABLE

Welcoming the KISS of His Beloved Abba

... The Spirit is Their KISS together.

We receive Abba's KISS

In Jesus Ascended ...

And, in Him,

We KISS Abba.

For US, to share in this Divine Mutual Kiss,

Is to experience Their Spirit !

1 Poem 451 Day 23, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 27th 2001.

2 As explained by Pope Benedict 16th, 'to adore' is to move 'towards (ad) the mouth/lips (or)'

– That is 'to engage the other's mouth/lips'

– That is, 'to kiss'...

So 'adorable' is 'kissable'!

“My Spirit will Live for You” ¹

(Jesus, on the Cross :)

O Children of Abba, dear brothers and sisters,
As you gaze on me, nailed to OUR cross of sin,
 Keep pondering in your heart
That LOVE ALONE removes the destructive power of sin
... The power particularly over all of our RELATIONSHIPS.

Abba, when these passers-by jeer,
When priests taunt, and soldiers mock,
Please “forgive them, for they know not what they do.” ²
As I hang on this cross, of humanity’s destiny,
My heart overflows with deepest thanks, Abba
– For your choice of me as their Chosen Messiah ! ³
– For choosing me as shepherd to lead Your people
Into ‘Your Kingdom of Love !’ ⁴
– And, most humbling of all, for revealing me
As Your Very Own Son ! ⁵

So, hanging here, arms splayed wide,
In this open embrace of my brothers and sisters,
I see Your Plan, for Your “Beloved,” ⁶
Much more clearly, than I’ve seen before.

And to you, my fellow victim, on your cross,
Who calls on me with kindness,
My love will carry you through death
... “Indeed I promise you,
Today you will be with me, in paradise.” ⁷
O Loving Mother, seeing you silent in your pain ...
 Really hurts !
But Abba’s love draws me, tearfully, to sacrifice
 Even being with you
– So as to surrender my trust, solely to Him !

To your Motherly care,
I bequeath all the children of the Cross, across the ages :
 ‘Woman, these are your sons ; these are your daughters ;’ ⁸
And to all my disciples – “This is your Mother.” ⁹

O Abba ! Pour out Your compassion,
For I am truly distressed !
This trauma ... pounds my body, my spirit, my vision !
 Your consuming love for me
 Fires my THIRST –
To fully atone for our humanity's deep failings !
I long to be a holocaust of love
For all my brothers and sisters.
Yet still, I vibrate with the sheer shock of the pain ...
Abba, I yearn for You TO SHOW YOURSELF
 ... Definitely ...
As our history's God of 'faithfulness and loving-kindness'
 – The God of Israel's 'emet e hesed' !

O Abba! Even as I call on You
To revive us, all together
 – I feel so alone!
In David's words, I cry with all my heart : ¹⁰
"My God! My God! Why have You abandoned me" ?

Yet, O Holy Father, You make Your home, in the praises of Israel
... In You, our fathers put all their trust –
They trusted – and You rescued them !

I am now poured out like water,
And all my bones are out of joint !
My heart is like wax, melted within my breast !
My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
My tongue sticks to my jaws !
I am left lying in the dust of death !

O Abba, do not stand aside !
O My strength, come quickly to my side !
O Abba, I will tell of Your Love to my brothers and sisters ;
In the midst of the assembly, I will praise You !

All you who love Abba, praise Him !
All of Israel, all in the assembly, glorify Him !
All be earth, from end to end, remember Him !
All who seek Abba, long life to your hearts !
To Him shall all who sleep in the earth, bow down !

*My Spirit will live for You !
My children will serve You !
You will be proclaimed to future generations,
Your saving power exalted by a people, yet unborn !*

*O Abba, "Your mission is now accomplished !" ¹¹
"Abba, into Your hands,
I entrust my spirit." O Abba ! ¹²*

1 Poem 452 Day 23, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 27th 2001.

2 Lk 23: 34

3 Cf Jn 1: 34

4 Cf Jn 10: 11

5 Cf Lk 3: 22

6 Cf Mt 17: 5

7 Lk 23: 43

8 Cf Jn 19: 26

9 Jn 19: 27

10 There follows for the next five stanzas, a FREE selection of verses from Ps 22, from both J.B. and N.A.B.

11 Jn 19: 30

12 Lk 23: 46

Jesus' Invitation ¹

*Come ...
Follow the Way of my Cross,
To the TRUTH of your hearts,
Where you will find
The gift of Our Life
Alive in you !*

Your Brother in Glory ¹ *

REFRAIN : *Prepare Ye the way of the Lord*
Prepare Ye the way of the Lord
Prepare Ye the way of the Lord
Prepare Ye the way of the Lord

Here I am, my Abba, ²
Your loved and loving son,
Your faithful Covenant partner,
Your “suffering servant”,
And, Jesus, I hope to be
Your brother in glory !

Repeat REFRAIN ...

1 Poem 454 Day 24, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 28th 2001.

* Written to be sung. Music and Lyrics for the refrain are from the 1970's musical Jesus Christ Super-Star.
2 Lyrics of stanza are original, by the author. Music – simply recitative.

Within ¹

*To be spirit,
Is to be alive
To the withinness
Of another.*

*GRACED with The Spirit,
Our spirits are given
A Divine Identity ...
Within Jesus,
Within Abba,
Within others.*

*Thus we can commune,
With all welcoming spirits,
In Jesus' Spirit
— Our spirits now OPENED*

*To welcome
A world of others,
Within ourselves ...
Freeing others,
Being freed,
To sing
The Spirit Song
Of Paschal Joy ...
Within Jesus,
Within Abba,
Within
Love.*

Everyone's Family ¹

*Mum and Dad,
We love you ...
We came from the womb
Of your love :
Let us all be family
Together
In the womb of Abba's Love
... All
Sisters and brothers to Jesus,
Praising Abba's Love
Together.*

Past, Future and Present ... and Energy ¹

*My past life, still a PART of me,
Needs to be hollowed out
For Abba's INFILLING.
It was a time when I used energy INTENSIVELY
Becoming habituated to squandering it
In self-indulgent ways ...
Where one's personal energies were over-focused
– Whirling into tightening spirals and swirls –
With energy not free, or available enough, FOR OTHERS.*

*Yet, my past was precisely the time
When Abba's faithfulness to His Covenant of Love with me,
Enwrapped me in an envelope of care.
O Abba, may Your consuming, jealous love
Burn away and purge the remnants,
And the continuing effects, of my unfaithful past.*

*Thus, shadowed by my past,
I set out INTO MY FUTURE
But ... my future life, my future heart,
Is NOT unexplored territory
... Jesus, OUR WAY has already gone before us :
– He is wonder-fully familiar with the map of the human heart,
– He is wondrously aware of the whole vista of human consciousness,
– He is the ONLY ONE who identifies with ALL that is human within us.
It is in His company,
Indeed, WITHIN His Person,
That the future becomes ours !*

*If we are truly attuned to Jesus,
Far from engineering, or 'carving out' our OWN future ...
We are DRAWN, IN the Spirit of Abba,
Into a future we SHARE with Jesus,
And, in Him, WITH OTHERS !
Still, our choices are truly free :
For, though Abba's Spirit ever prompts us
To choose as Jesus chooses,
Our choice is our own.
Still, it is an ACCOMPANIED choice :
The good we choose
Is simultaneously chosen by God.
Who always chooses all that is good.*

*Thus, our choices for our future,
Come to CO-RADIATE
Jesus' TRANSCENDENT humanity, alive in our world.*

*In thus CO-ENABLING our future, with the Spirit,
My use of energy in EXTENSIVE
... Needing to be wide-focussed and inclusive,
Seeking to scan the human HORIZONS of what is possible
– Engaging the WHOLE of reality,
The WHOLE of God's People,
The entirety, of any situation or process.
However, at times, this 'future' energy can be dissipated
By unrestrained day-dreaming, or self-indulgent fantasizing.*

*For our hope to be REALISTIC – that is, to be CHRISTLIKE,
It needs to be lived wholly within Abba's providential care :
O Abba, send forth Your Spirit so that my our hearts' yearnings
Seamlessly conform to Your own fatherly Desire for us.
To fully live, IN THE PRESENT,
Is, at all times, to reflect Abba's PRESENCE within.
O Abba, may the enrapturing WARMTH of Your life-giving PRESENCE
... Lived in Fellowship with Jesus and Loyce within ...
Cause my PRESENT to come alive,
Through the continuing gift of Your Divine Intimacy.*

*Here in the present I am intent on using energy INTRA-TENSIVELY,
As – with Christ, and in Christ – I face life ... with OPEN PALMS
– Free to RECEIVE Love's energies,
– Free to GIVE them, as gifts, to others
... So that the life of Your Beloved
Flows freely through me.*

*To abide, thus, in the PRESENT,
One needs to have an open, unencumbered heart
... Never seeking to grasp, to retain, or to be possessive
Of ANY of Love's gifts,
But, content to be Love's conduit.*

*To enable this to be so, Abba,
I ask that Your Wondrous Spirit
Keep my spirit OPEN and SENSITIVE
To discern the changing direction and focus
Of Your integrative, creative Love.*

With New Eyes ¹

*Jesus, we recognize Your Presence,
Recognize the Mystery of You, the Risen One
Rising within our hearts ...
Transforming our woundedness,
Surprising and delighting us,
Empowering us with the Gift of Your Ascension
– The Spirit of Visioning
Who enables us to see the world and all our relationships
With NEW eyes ...with Your eyes !
With the eyes of a loving brother, the eyes of a Cherished Child !*

*Thus empowered, we discover with You
... The Spirit of Enlivening at work :
In people thought dead ... but alive to growth !
In people thought depressed ... but unleashing joy !
In people thought bound ... but free to dance !
In people thought broken ... but walking whole !
In people thought wounded ... but healed through love !
In people thought lost ... but finding a home !*

In gazing, on You, the Risen, Ascended One

We become what we see ...

“We receive what we are” ²

– A NEW HUMANITY, IN YOU, ³

*Ever thankful for a woundedness, that merits such a Redeemer !
... Such a Loving Brother ! Such a Divine Destiny !*

1 Poem 458 Day 25, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 29th 2001.

2 St Augustine. 3 Eph 2 : 15 (N.R.S.V.)

Photinia ! ¹

*Early one Easter morning,
As dawn's rays beamed a golden crown
Over the eucalypt forest to the east,
And as I strolled in my Dad's garden alone
Save for the symphony of bird song –
A song rose to my throat, but ... it stayed unsung.*

*A tall stranger had entered the garden,
And was walking down the slope towards me.
About twenty metres away, he called out good-humouredly –
“Zac ! I saw you in the fresh sunrays
... How are you ‘Smiles’ ?” ²
It was my nick name from of old ...
Now new-born, it seemed.
I gazed at him but the sun was in my eyes.
His voice was light and bright, with a warm, consoling tone.*

*I listened : open-eyed to hear !
Just then he put his arm around me –
“How's my mate ... any change
From when we were both inside ?”
I felt his sweet breath flow over me
As he drew me to his heart.
To my delight – I couldn't tell why –
I felt his face touch mine.*

I turned, still wordless, to see his face

...To give him my reply ...

When, just as quickly as he'd come,

He walked back through the sun !

Then to my surprise,

That unsung song came forth from deep within me,

From within a heart, ALIVE !

But now HIS voice became MINE ...

“Good on yer mate, God keep yer live,

Keep yer ‘out, and free’ !”

Only then did I look down :

He'd broken off a bloom, and left it in my hand :

A PHOTINIA !

... With its packed bouquet of creamy florets

Dew-kissed, and glistening in the sunlight.

So now, in later times, as life is flowing free,

Often I smell that Easter fragrance ³

– Especially meant for me –

And settle my gaze on its glistening crown of mini light-bursts,

That so delight my eye,

And continue to so steal my heart,

That I am drawn into that Paschal Encounter once again ...

1 Poem 459 Day 25, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 29th 2001.

2 “Zac”, a short form of Isaac – the name given to me, as a spousal name, a year before :
‘Isaac’ in Hebrew, means the one on whom God ‘smiles’.

3 The photinia a tree, blooms in spring. In the northern hemisphere, this is at Easter.

“Rabbouni !”¹

(One of the three women at Jesus’ tomb on Easter morning :)

*We hurried
Into the dawn –
Its air spiced
With our rising hope ...
Then! Like thunder !
... For many moments ...
The earth quaked !
We hurried on,
Past stunned soldiers,
INTO the tomb ...
Dazzled there !
Eyes blinded :
A Radiant Presence
Announcing –
In a sun-filled voice,
‘Fear not !
Be certain !
The One you love
Has RISEN !
Risen WITHIN a world
That’s now free!
Tell the disciples
The Lord indeed
Has RISEN !
Rejoice! Rejoice !”*

*His empty space,
We saw ourselves ;
So off into the morn
We sped,
But then, stopped ...
In joy and amazement :
‘Rabbouni !’²
... ‘Faithful ones, fear not !’
Hearts joying,
We kissed His feet !
Mary lingered ...
... ‘Do not cling, Mary :
I ascend
To My Father,
And your Father !*

To my God,
And your God!
... Go! Find my BROTHERS,
And tell them!"

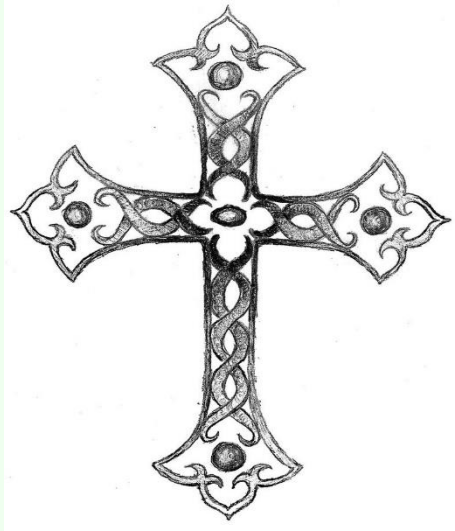
Then, He was gone ...
We told the disciples,
'We have seen THE LORD !'
They seemed doubtful ...
Still, Peter and John
Ran back to the tomb :
There, John's courage failed,
And Peter passed on in,
Discovering the folded cloths.
John saw – and believed !
Now, for the first time,
They began to understand
Who Jesus was!

They returned home ...
Home to their hearts –
To ponder ... LED by the Spirit.

1 Poem 460 Day 25, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 29th 2001.

2 'Rabbouni' is the FAMILIAR form of 'Rabbi' – in effect, '(God) our loving teacher.'

In Memory.



The year 2001 closed

With my Mum's death

On 15th December.

... "Happy she, who has fallen asleep in love"

Sir. 48:11

... A life given to family and to relatives,

... A life of many crosses,

... A wonderful woman of faith.

Author.

Godburst ¹

(We, all those adopted in Jesus Ascended :)

Ascended Jesus !
You draw us
To Abba,
To His Glorious Goodness –
To the out-pouring of His Love,
Through You,
Into OUR LIVES !
Abba, overcome by Love,
You RUN to us !
Excitedly!
... Drawing us,
Into Your Embrace
Of Jesus Risen !
... Who pours forth
Our love,
– AS HIS OWN –
Flooding Your heart,
Dearest Abba,
With the deepest joy!
... Again, Your love
Floods back
To us ...
As You lovingly
‘Brother’ and ‘sister’ us,
To Jesus Ascended !

*Our grateful hearts
Smother You with kisses
And with hugs !
... Cascade You,
With loving cries
Of “Abba!”
In response, the wondrous outpouring
Of Your Father’s love
– “Gift upon Gift” – ²
Explodes gloriously
– As a GODBURST OF LOVE
Within us !
Such that Your “PROMISED GIFT” ³
Through Jesus Ascended
– The Spirit of Fellowship –
Radiates all open hearts,
Drawing all ...
Within Your Diving Family !
This Wondrous Spirit
Transforms
... All our relationships
... Indeed, our whole universe
– Offering His Godself,
To all open hearts !*

To You Abba,
... In our Ascended Brother Jesus ...
We breathe back, AS FAMILY,
This same Spirit of Fellowship,
The Gift of overflowing hearts :
As the Godburst
Of our Praise !
Our Thanks!
The Godburst
Of our Joy !
The Godburst
Of Glory !

1 Poem 461 Day 25, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 29th 2001.

2 Cf Jn 1: 16

3 Cf Acts 2: 33

The Singing Tree ¹

*A shimmering deep-pink cloud of blossoms
Of a springtime plum tree
Truly glowed, amidst its green surrounds
– A exclamation stop
Of vibrant light and colour !*

*It drew me close, as a friend of old,
To renew a pact we'd 'SIGNED'
– In gasps from me !
And SINGING from the tree !*

*From its petal umbrella,
Its sonorous song floated through the air
– An harmonious humming, of a plain-song
... Of a thousand bees at prayer !*

*The music rose, and fell ... just a quaver gap ;
Its lyrics told – of praise to God,
Thanks for the sunlight ...
And hope for the bountiful harvest
– All ceaselessly intoned, like a Tibetan chant.*

*As incense is to Church-song,
Here, the plum blossom fragrance
Twinned with the bees' humming
... Perfuming the springtime chant
It offered to its Lord.*

1 Poem 462 Day 26, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 30th 2001.

NOTE : The actual tree was 'found' by me in the springtime garden of Douglas Park retreat centre.

Fishing – or Loving Others ? ¹

*Our inner truth mostly sleeps within us ...
Longing for its awakening ... its dawn
– As it did for Peter, in the wake of Easter's shock !
Lost, like us ... he turns towards the most familiar –
“I'm going fishing !”*

To which most of us reply, “We'll come with you.” ²

The result ? “Nothing did they catch that night.” ³

Disappointed ... directionless ... saying little ...

Peter awaits a double dawn

– To light up ... both the day, and his spirit !

From the shadowland of his soul, he yearns

For the personal light and warmth of Jesus ...

Yet there, on the shore ... UNRECOGNIZED ... stood Jesus !

Moreover, there came as a dawning grace ...

The awakening voice of Life –

“Caught anything friends ? No ?

Cast to starboard for a catch!” ⁴

As they did so, the sun's rays splayed across the lake

... Sparking hope, within Peter's heart.

All the while, Jesus waited FAITHFULL ... like dawn's sentry.

Trustingly, “they cast their net” ⁵

And drew a treasure from the deep :

John's emotions gave words to their dawning faith ...

As, gazing on the sunlit figure on the golden shore,

“He saw, and he believed – ⁶

IT IS THE LORD !” ⁷

Love flooded Peter's heart.

Wrapping his cloak round his newly sensed nakedness, ⁸

He plunges, heart first, into the deep ...

His spirit's wounds and hurts, washed clean away !

He reaches the fire-place where Jesus waits ...

Cooking fish, with bread, prepared, FOR THEM.

“Bring some of your fish !” He brightly calls. ⁹

*Excitedly, Peter rallies the others
To haul in, and to drag the bulging net to land ...
Before spilling its bounty of life
– Flashing silver in the sun –
At the feet of their smiling friend.*

*That it was HE,
They knew quite well,
But not a word they uttered ...
In the presence of the WORD ! ¹⁰
Jesus' actions spoke forth His Life :
Taking the food, a symbol of Himself
– Transformed as it was in the giving –
He gave to each, with a smile.*

For Him, it was a meal offered to a band of BROTHERS : ¹¹

*For them, it offered a CHOICE :
'The same shore, the same nets, the same fishing
... With the same secure returns'*

OR

*Walking unknown shores of life with Him,
Casting wide, with faith-filled hearts
To draw the poor in spirit,
Into the arms of a loving Father.'*

Why is it to be : 'Fishing or a life given for others' ?

"Faith working through love" is the asking price : ¹²

"DO YOU LOVE ME ... " ¹³

More than fishing with your mates?

TWICE, Peter affirms his, their, and our choice ;

Jesus presses the issue –

"DO YOU LOVE ME, TO THE END ? " ¹⁴

This upsets Peter ... in a heart-beat or two, of doubt ...

Until his faith proclaims, for us all –

"You know all hearts, Lord !

You know we love You !" ¹⁵

*Then, Jesus shows them
All His wounds, again :
Each gazes, sees into HIS SELF,
And bows his head ...
Yet moved by the Spirit,
Lifts it again – to praise Abba’s love
For such ‘channel – wounds’ of grace !
For such openings to the Divine !
For such pathways to Fellowships !*

*As Jesus takes their hands
– Each in turn, into His –
In that moment, as gazes meet,
In their tears of joy,
Passover comes for each, WITHIN.
He whom they behold
They, will ever more, become ...*

*Turning, to face along the shore,
Jesus walks off, into the dawn :
Their love urges each to join Him ...
And, feet join hearts
To follow Him !
For us, the dawn is NOW :
We stand upon the shore
As Jesus asks,
“Do you love me ?”
... Hoping
The sun of courage will rise
Within
... KNOWING
His Spirit will move our hearts
To proclaim
“We do !”*

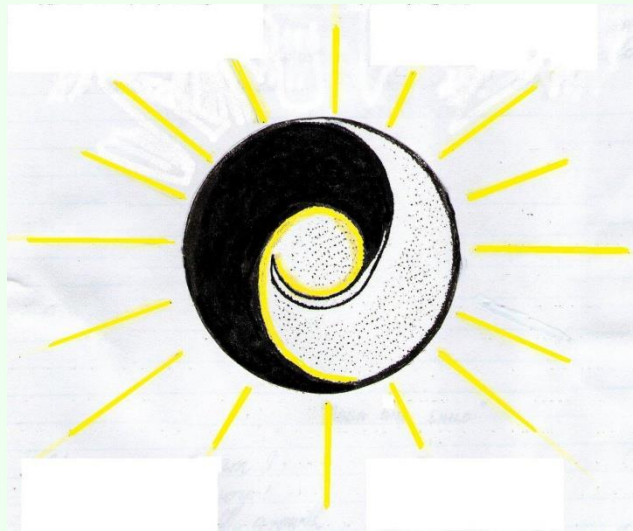
1 Poem 462 Day 26, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 30th 2001.

2 Jn 21: 3 3 ibid. 4 ibid 5 Jn 21: 6 6 ibid 7 Jn 20: 21 8 Jn 21: 7 9 Cf Gen 3: 7
10 Jn 21: 10 11 Cf Jn 21:12 12 Cf Jn 20: 17 13 Gal 5: 6 14 Jn 21: 15 15 Jn 21: 17

Spiralling Ecstasy of Love ¹ *

(Abba, to each of us – thinking naturally also, of the enwombed Jesus :)

*O Eternal child of light !
O cosmic child of joy !
Cherished child within my heart –
Spiralling ecstasy of love !* ²



*O Wondrous swirl, so tender ...
Universe of peace within!
Galaxy of wonders in my arms !
Incandescent loveliness !*



*As I behold in you, my child,
Glorious Image of My Son,
My heart explodes with fondness ...
With love – with fondest love !*

*Not on oceanful of stars !
No a cosmosful of dreams !
Nears the love I hold for you –
Spiralling ecstasy of love !*

*Warmly curled upon my heart
Next the heartbeat of your God,
O rest softly in the silence ...
Of the rhythm of My Breath.*

1 Poem 466, Day 28, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Sep 1 2001.

* Meant to be sung. Tune : “O King of Might and Splendour”.

2 The imagery of this poem came to me, by merging –

(a) The ‘Galaxy’ icon of my Spiritual Journey ... with

(b) The ‘Abba, Mary, and Child’ icon of P.419 – “Your True Love-Child.”

Note : Quite providentially, the Spirit had given me, before writing, as the day’s theme –
‘To be a child of Abba in a universe of joy!’

Abba, You Amaze Me ! ¹

(Jesus Ascended to Abba :)

*Abba, You amaze me
You truly astound me ...
With the tenderness of Your Love
– Eternally honouring and dignifying
All I am ... and feel ... and do !*

*You deluge me with gifts
– Foremost, the Gift of Yourself –
... To me ! A mere person of earth,
A creature of ever-changing feelings !*

*My death
– Your Glory –
Wondrously brought forth
The full out-pouring of Your Fatherly Love !
So that I – a child, born late in time –
Have become HUMANITY'S OWN CHANNEL
– For Your boundless generosity ... for OUR openness to Your Love,
– For Your Eternal Life ... for OUR heart-felt thankfulness,
– For Your Covenant faithfulness ... for OUR homing instinct for the Divine,
– For Your Spirit of Inclusion ... for OUR 'yes' to Your Family Fellowship !*

*As You raise ME – RISEN – home to You,
My spirit explodes in ecstasy, within Yours, O Abba :
I am over awed ! Over – joyed ! Overwhelmed !
... By Your infinite self-surrender to ME !
To You, I surrender our humanity
... Devoid of shame ...*

Radiant with the Glory

You give Me !

We thank You !

We praise You !

We love You !

We glorify You !

Your Promise of Love to Me

– The Spirit of Love –

I release ... to explode

Within all humanity !

Within all creation !

Yours ... The Glory ... Eternally!

Our Spirit

Is the Enabling Spirit,

Who ENABLES My brothers and sisters –

To forgive sin, in My Name,

To be compassion to those who suffer,

To open others ... to faith and hope in You,

To love LOVE into other human hearts,

To reconcile all, through Your Love,

To consecrate all to Your Glory,

To welcome US into their hearts,

To pray that all be united in Our Love

... There to thank and praise You

... There to glorify You

ETERNALLY!

1 Poem 465 Day 28, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Sep 1st 2001. First day of spring.

NOTE : This poem is also re-presented, in Poem 475, in a REWRITTEN HYMN FORMAT...

RAISED UP INTO YOUR GLORY!

A Feast of Love ¹

O Joy-filled Abba,
You love to share Yourself
With Your Beloved Jesus
... Who now is MANY!
Yours is a love
Which enables OUR own response is love –
“What we are,
Is God’s Gift to us ;
What we become
Is our Gift to God.” ²
Both Gifts are OURS
Only IN Beloved Jesus
...Ever RETURNING HOME to You !

Abba,
So wonderful is Your love
That You LIVE WITHIN Your Gifts
– Especially within Your precious Children
... En-Spiriting them as temple, IN Christ.

In Jesus Ascended
We think HIS thoughts,
And feel HIS feelings
... Loving with HIS love,
Being Jesus for others ;
Emptying our being
In service of them,
So that, moved by His Spirit
Our life becomes His prayer
– “Take, Lord, receive all ...” ³
Take care of everything !

1 Poem 466 Day 29, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Sep 2nd 2001.

2 A framed saying in the Douglas Park Retreat House.

3 The first line of the Prayer of St. Ignatius.

With All Your Heart¹ *

*When you seek Me,
When you seek Me
... With all your heart
– I will let you,
I will let you
... Discover Me
– Discover Me
... As 'I Am'.*

1 Poem 467 Day 29, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Sep 2nd 2001.

* Written to be sung. Tune : There's a Pawnshop on a Corner.

NOTE : The words are only partly original, being based on a scriptural saying, from Jer 29: 13,14

“I Love You Abba”¹

*I love You, Abba,
For always being with us
– Working Your gracious wonders
Within ... and between
All Your creatures
– Especially for us, Your children
... Wonder succeeding wonder!
“Grace following grace”!²*

*Yes! Our whole world is aflame
With the Glory of Your Fatherly Love!
Give us eyes to see It!
Hearts to proclaim ... hands to serve It!*

*While I'm truly happy to wash feet ... like You Jesus,
And content to share the crumbs from Your table,
You, loving Jesus,
Exceed Yourself in generosity,
Exceed ... every measure of love
– In giving YOURSELF to us!
Your very flesh and blood!
Your own Person!*

You do so :

*– As ‘THE SACRAMENTUM’ of Your Divinely – human intimacy,³
– As an invitation to join You
In Your saving Paschal Mystery
... So we too can surrender
To Abba’s Loving Embrace!*

*In welcoming us to Your Eucharistic Banquet
You sensitize and prepare our hearts
... To thirst for Your healing love
... To watch, in Gethsemane, with You
... To accompany You, in Your heart-rending passion
... And to surrender all to Abba, on Your Cross,
Surrendering life to gain Life!*

*Thus Your Eucharist is also a time for singing
– To rejoice with You as You respond
To Abba's fatherly yearning for You on Easter Day,
"Come now My Love !*

My Lovely One ! Come !" ⁴

*Most wondrously, it is also the time to exult with You,
As You are raised into Abba's Presence,
To join You, in Your homecoming to Abba
– In the homecoming of all humanity –
In Your Godburst of love for Abba :
'Glory to You, Abba !
Your Glory unites
All hearts in heaven and on earth !'*

*We join You, O Ascended Jesus,
In the giving of the Spirit
To a waiting humanity.
We look for signs, images, and promptings
Of Your Spirit in our lives :
Days of sunshine!
Nights of love !* ⁵

*We stand alert ... watching and waiting
With still and silent hearts,
Yearning to see Abba
In the start, in the poor
In hearts forgiven, in hearts that fly free,
To see You
Face to face !*

1 Poem 468 Day 30, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Sep 3rd 2001.

2 Jn 1: 16

3 Latin for 'the enabling, activating sign'.

4 Sg 2:13

5 See Poem 354.

Transfigured with Christ ¹

*To be "IN CHRIST",
Is to be moved by His Spirit,
To think as He thought,
To live our life as He did
To be able, through His grace, to share
In the life-shaping events of His life.*

*Just as Jesus was TRANSFIGURED,
So we need to be, also.
For us, it involves three transformations
That, for most, takes years :
From being graced to become 'praying hearts',
We are drawn to become 'serving hearts',
Before being transformed into 'crucified hearts'.
The enabling template for these three heart movements
Is Jesus' TRANSFIGURATION.*

*Firstly, gifted with forgiveness at ever deeper levels,
Our spiritual selves are drawn
From what is NOT of Moses
– Conformity to the law of sin –
And from what is NOT of the Prophets
– Covenant UN faithfulness –
... To become hearts of prayer ... IN Christ !*

“With Jesus (we) go up the mountain TO PRAY.” ²

There, with Him, we undergo a PERSONAL transformation. ³

Crucially, we undergo a metanoia.

With Moses’ encouragement,

Our dependence on law is subsumed within Jesus’ Law of Love ;

With Elijah’s urging,

Our devotion to prophetic leadership is transcended by Jesus’ wisdom.

The PERSON of Jesus CENTRES our praying

So prayer becomes a life-giving relationship

Between us – in – Jesus and Abba.

Secondly, our maturing response to this prayer relationship

Mirrors that of Peter ...

First, is wonder – “It is wonderful for us to be here !” ⁴

Then, is the desire to serve – “Let us make ...”. ⁵

Peter’s, and ours, is the contemplative experience of the Divine ...

Revealing itself in a missionary urge

... In a desire to serve the cause of salvation.

As ‘serving hearts’

We seek to serve as Jesus did.

... Aflame with the non-consuming fire of Mosaic zeal

... Sensitive, as was Elijah, to the GENTLE BREEZE of Abba’s Presence

... And, most divinely, humbly prepared to wash the feet

Of both the dismissive rich and the open-hearted poor.

Thirdly, and again, out of deeper experience of Divine Love

– “A cloud came and covered them with “shadow” – ⁶

The light-filled wonder of our earlier times, passes.

*As we are drawn into the “shadow”
Of Abba’s outstretched hand of love
– Which both caresses, and shelters us –
While our hearts are transformed
Into that of the suffering, crucified Jesus !
Here, we agree to suffer FOR others,
To sacrifice ourselves
... So a whole people can be won for Abba !*

*As ‘crucified hearts’
... With Jesus, and in Him ...
We are ANNOINTED with these wondrous words of Abba –
“This is my Son, the Beloved.
He enjoys my favour.
Listen to Him.”⁷

With such Divine Love
So obviously ours,
We can now face death
... And beyond,
Wholly trusting in Abba
To transform
Our ‘crucified hearts’
Into ‘hearts of Glory’
– Into wholly TRANSFIGURED hearts !*

1 Poem 469 Day 30, Douglas Park, 30 Day Retreat, Sydney, Sep 3rd 2001.

2 Lk 9: 28 3 Lk 9: 29 4 Mt 17: 4

5 Lk 9: 33 6 Lk 9: 34 7 Mt 17: 5

The Grace I Ask For ¹

Abba, the grace I ask for

Is –

To reflect, prayerfully, on key life experiences,

To be sensitive to Your initiatives in my life,

To deepen the sense of Your giftedness to me,

To align myself to the direction You are now drawing me,

To clarify, with a counsellor, Your future directions,

And, especially –

To love You tenderly and affectionately,

To imitate Jesus, to live Jesus, to be Jesus,

To be ever responsive to the promptings of Your Spirit,

And, to ever celebrate being drawn

Into the Fellowship of Love.

Amen.