

# Folio Thirty-Six

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# Folio Thirty-Six

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## The Mystery of Worship <sup>1</sup>

*In the WORSHIP  
Of the Eucharistic Sacrifice,  
We simply cannot know,  
In deep truth –  
WHOM we offer,  
To WHOM we offer,  
How we offer ...*

*Ultimately,  
Only God  
Can offer God  
To God ...*

*To know, in faith,  
That all is done IN THE SPIRIT,  
Only  
... Deepens the Mystery !  
... Heightens our awe !  
... And exalts God's loving-kindness !*

## Drawn into Silence <sup>1</sup>

*Silence is something that comes to us,  
Not so much for us to experience,  
But for it to abide within our hearts,  
Not so much to be sought for,  
But for us to welcome, and be thankful for.  
It comes to us best ...  
As a GIFT, a medium for God's Presence.*

*Rather than we ... 'depthing' silence,  
We are DRAWN into it,  
To the Presence within.  
This inner silence, becomes stillness of heart  
... Our spirits led by the Spirit, into Divine stillness.*

*Such silence allows communion to happen ...  
Beyond the deepest levels of our consciousness,  
Within our UN-conscious depths,  
Where Abba, Jesus, and Loyce <sup>2</sup>  
Choose to make Their Home. <sup>3</sup>*

*The deep irony, the paradox,  
Is that this is not a place of solitude,  
But of Fellowship ...  
Where there's deep joy with many others  
In the presence of our Brother,  
Where wordlessness gives way to the Word's  
"O Abba !"  
Where the Spirit moves Abba to respond  
"My Beloved !"*

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1 Poem 701, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, (Note Poem 699), Clayfield Community, March 2006, Week 1

2 Loyce is my familiar name for the Spirit, who is LOVE, JOY and PEACE ... pronounced Loy-cee

3 Jn 14:23

## Fellowship Divine <sup>1</sup>

*(Words from the Cross, II)*

*“This day, you will be WITH ME in paradise.” (Lk 23:43)*

*In that Fellowship above all fellowships,*

*Above all relationships,*

*God surrenders to God*

*To receive God*

*In God ...*

*Within this Triune-Fellowship,*

*Within us,*

*Abba’s gift of Himself*

*Transcends all He is.*

*Indeed, Abba’s very self-surrender*

*Is His Transcendence ...*

*Transferring the focus, ETERNALLY,*

*To the Other – His Beloved,*

*OUR brother !*

*Within this Fellowship of Love,*

*Within us,*

*Abba even transcends His Intimacy ...*

*Never relating to His Beloved AS possession,*

*But relating to His Beloved as GIFT ...*

*Knowing their MUTUAL GIVING, is itself*

*Their Spirit-Breath !*

*When we are within the Presence of God*

*In Christ,*

*There is ONLY God :*

*God giving,*

*God receiving,*

*And God who IS MUTUALITY*

*... Where ALL is Fellowship.*

## Acting Against Fellowship <sup>1</sup>

*Holiness is Fellowship,  
Evil is acting against Fellowship  
Evil is also the lack of Fellowship :  
There is no neutrality with Fellowship  
... That is, with God  
– “He who is not with Me, is against Me” <sup>2</sup>*

*Acting against Fellowship  
Is NOT seeking solitude  
But, exalting individualism.  
Such misdirected individualism  
Spawns superiority and entitlement,  
And, therein, INEQUALITY  
– The very antithesis of Fellowship !*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 703, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat (Note Poem 699), Clayfield Community, March 2006, Week 2.

<sup>2</sup> Lk 11:23



## **Eucharistic Mother** <sup>1</sup>

*(Words from the Cross, III)*

*“Woman, this is your son, Son; this is your mother.” (Jn 19:26, 27)*

*Mary stood in the cross’s shadow*

*Refusing to give back IN KIND :*

*Not repaying the evil ... puncturing the heart*

*Of her ever-gentle Son.*

*Instead, she was transformed*

*– Heart re-shaped by the Spirit of her “Fiat !” –*

*Into the image of her own compassionate Child ...*

*Suspended, BY LOVE, between earth and heaven !*

*By her resolve of gentleness, imitating His,*

*She breathed forth His life-force of forgiveness, with Him,*

*Into that vulnerable remnant, over-shadowed by the cross,*

*Firstly, taking to her heart, tender-eyed John*

*–As “the first born of many brothers and sisters,” OF THE FIRST BORN. <sup>2</sup>*

*And, as such, shortly to be affirmed by the Risen Jesus Himself.*

*By this STANDING UNDER the Cross of our reality,*

*Mary became the first of her Son’s disciples*

*To UNDER-STAND how His LOVE-FOR-ADVERSARIES*

*Decisively negated evil’s hold on their hearts !*

*It was a climactic moment of courage for Mary :  
She silently accepted her new role  
As the Mother of forgiveness ...  
Embracing all who “know not what they do.”<sup>3</sup>  
She became Jesus’ first disciple of forgiveness,  
John, her OWN first disciple  
And so, on and on, heart lighting up heart.*

*This cascade of forgiveness, fired each with courage, WITH MARY,  
... To forgive vengeful adversaries  
... To soften hearts, paralysed by sin.*

*Overshadowed by the Cross, Mary silently chose  
To offer her Son’s Sacrifice with Him  
– Becoming, with Him, Eucharist for all, both good and bad  
Offering her Son’s body and blood to Abba*

*... Body of her own body !  
... Blood of her own blood !  
... Heart shaped by hers !*

*Yet NOW, WONDROUSLY –*

*... Body offered for our bodies !  
... Blood shed for our blood !  
... Heart surrendered for our hearts !*

*These hearts, too, have now been lit up, through forgiveness,  
So we too, can BE EUCHARIST FOR ALL, with Mary.  
We, too, can offer the self-same Sacrifice of Jesus,  
Which she co-offered to Abba, in the Spirit  
... So as to break, wide open,  
... Hearts hardened by hatred  
... Open for the in-pouring  
Of their Victim's love !*

*Yes ! How privileged, how graced, we are – to forgive  
To be Eucharist for others,  
Imitating the Mother of Eucharistic Love  
... Heart lighting up heart in forgiveness !*

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1 Poem 704, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat (Note Poem 699), Clayfield Community, March 2006, Week 3.

2 Rom 8:29 3 Lk 23:34 (See Poem 699)

## Whisper But My Name <sup>1</sup>

*(Words from the Cross, IV)*

*“My God ! My God ! Why have You deserted me ?” (Mt 15:34)*

*I, Abba’s Son ...*

*Feeling vilified and vulnerable,*

*Flesh, ripped red raw ... riveted to the cross,*

*Stretched between the earth ... of my followers, my kin and our race,*

*And the heaven of You ... My God within my heart,*

*Yearn for You, dearest Abba,*

*To speak to me*

*To lay claim to Your Loving Son*

*And to all WHOM I LOVE*

*... Your voice ALIVE, with a Father’s longing !*

*O Abba ... Abba ... where are You ?*

*O Abba, I’m lost without You !*

*O Abba, just whisper ... whisper ...*

*Whisper but my name ...*

*Empty am I, ... hollowed out ... a wraith of a man !*

*My cries echo ... echo within the husk of my soul.*

*O How I yearn for You ...*

*I long for Your gentle touch,*

*The caress of Your Presence :*

*Just to know ‘You’re here !’*

*Your hand on my brow*

*... Stilling my writhing ...*

*Will let my spirit SOAR !*

O Faithful Father, Father of our failed flesh ...

In looking tenderly upon us,

Let Your heart's eye, pity OUR plight

—We're Yours to embrace, ever-loving Father !

In drawing me, through this SACRIFICE,

To the home of Your heart,

All OF US can follow ...

As Gift of Your joy !

I long ... WE yearn ... for Your infilling.

WE thirst ! We hunger for You !

For we are nothing without You

... Only the driest of dry desert hearts;

I offer to sacrifice FOR US ALL

... I give my very life

To the boundless demands of OUR THIRST for You ...

Entrusting the deepest reaches of our spirits

To Your oceanic Inpouring !

Dearest of Fathers,

Deluge Your people, held close within my heart

—With life ! With love ! With longing fulfilled !

Flood my whole person, the UNIVERSE of my being,

With the love of Divine Fellowship —

Delighting to touch, to kiss, to enrapture US ALL !

*Dearest Abba, breathe into us*  
*The life of Your Spirit,*  
*So that, in the warmth of Your Fathering,*  
*Your Beloved can become ALL – for ALL !*  
*Raised up by this Cross ... to Your Heaven*  
*With a galaxy of KIN !*

## Dry Creek Beds <sup>1</sup>

*(Words from the Cross, V)*

*“I thirst.” (Jn 19:28)*

*God thirsts for us.*

*God thirsts, because God loves.*

*We thirst, because we are of God, IN Christ.*

*Deluged by Love, passing through us,*

*The dry creek bed of our spirit*

*Always retains the memory of this Deluge*

*– Of being saturated with Love !*

*Yes ! Our beings long for Love*

*Because we BE-LONG to Love.*

*We ache with a yearning, whose focus*

*Is not to retain the Gift,*

*But to GIVE all back ... to Love*

*... The HOME of our being.*

*God thirsts for us :*  
*We thirst for God.*  
*Abba and us quench each other's thirst*  
*With the self-same Gift*  
*—Christ, the Son of God !*  
*On quenching our thirst,*  
*Abba thirsts, having given ALL*  
*... His Christ, to us.*  
*On quenching Abba's thirst,*  
*We thirst, having given ALL*  
*... Ourselves-IN-Christ, to Abba.*

*Thus quenching the 'other', causes thirst in the giver*  
*—That is, an eagerness to be QUENCHED.*  
*Yet, we are not looking to STAY quenched :*  
*Rather, we're still eager to quench the OTHER*  
*... In the Circle of Love !*  
*... In the Fellowship of Lover-Beloved-and Love.*



## Sharing God's Transcendence <sup>1</sup>

*Father, Son, and Spirit*  
*Because You are Each boundlessly generous,*  
*You Each TRANSCEND the Gift of the Other*  
*Whom You RECEIVE in deepest intimacy,*  
*By GIVING wholly – of Your Person to the Other – in deepest intimacy.*  
*Thus, You empty Yourself*  
*Wholly in GIVING*  
*... Completing the CIRCLE of intimacy.*

*Wondrously, EACH ONE'S GIFT OF SELF becomes a GIFT TO THE OTHER*

*–A Eucharist*

*... So the transcending of giving in the One,*  
*Becomes receiving to be transcended, for the Other.*

*Thus, for US human beings,*  
*To be one with You, O God,*  
*Is to share Your Intimacy*  
*And, THEREIN, to share Your Transcendence !*  
*Thus, in Jesus Ascended, our brother,*  
*We RECEIVE ALL, so as to GIVE ALL !*  
*We are Eternally surprised*  
*That GIVING ALL ...*  
*Empties us to RECEIVE ALL !*  
*O, so little WE do, to be infinitely SO GRACED !*

## The Well's Depths <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus, and the woman at the well :*

*Her eyes were thirsty, for the deep pools of kindness in His eyes.*

*Refreshed and heartened by His gaze, she asked ...*

*“Do you have your mother’s eyes, or your father’s ?”*

*“My Mum’s are green, like Galilee in spring, full of hope ;*

*Joseph’s are light and of the earth ... constantly reassuring ;*

*But my true Dad’s ... I cannot say ...”*

*“Why ? Did you not know him ?” she asked, curiously.*

*“O Yes ! I know Him wonderfully well ...*

*We spend hours together daily ! We love being together :*

*What He sees, I see ... How He responds, I respond !”*

*“To me, He seems more like a twin than a Dad ...*

*But what COLOUR are HIS eyes ?”*

*“Colour ? The colour of LOVE, I guess ...*

*His eyes are just full of colour and life !*

*And yes, faithful eyes – full of peace.”*

*Quite perplexed now, the woman hesitated at the side of the well ...  
Then, she looked up ... and enchanted by the rainbow, tentatively ventured ...*

*“There’s a halo, set in the clouds by El Shaddai  
... Maybe you’re His prophet ... because you speak in riddles ...  
But one thing’s for sure : you’re ALIVE with your father’s spirit !  
Anyway, I bet his eyes are deep blue – like yours !”*

*“All I know” He murmured, “is that your HEART’S blue ...  
Blue cold in this summer’s heat ... blue from being left out ... sidelined ...”*

*“Sir, yours is a gaze of truth ... and you see right into my heart ...  
But it’s just not possible to start again ...  
And feel the warmth of having a friend ...”*

*“Woman, if you and I, Samaritan and Jew,  
Can drink from the same well’s depths,  
All things are possible !  
Those who eat or drink together, are family or friend :  
So here, have some water with me.”*

**Finished** <sup>1</sup>

*(Words from the Cross, VI)*

*“It is accomplished.” (Jn 19:30)*

*No, no ...it’s not MY mission, MY earthly life, MY suffering*

*That’s finished.*

*It was, not MY dream,*

*But the ‘Father’s work’ that’s completed ! <sup>2</sup>*

*My mission was NOT MY OWN,*

*But my heart’s response to Abba.*

*Similarly, this life I’ve lived, this suffering ...*

*Is something I’ve offered up, directed to, Abba.*

*It is Abba Himself who sent me.*

*By completing HIS tasks, fulfilling HIS desires,*

*I have glorified our Abba-God !*

*Jesus then “bowed His head” <sup>3</sup>*

*... In the Presence of His ADORABLE Abba ...*

*“And gave up His spirit,” <sup>4</sup>*

*BREATHING FORTH THE SPIRIT*

*Of a New Humanity <sup>5</sup>*

*– Now that His “hour had come.” <sup>6</sup>*

*Truly a Trinitarian out pouring of Love*

*For us !*

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1 Poem 709, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, Clayfield Community, April 2006, Week 6.

2 Cf Jn 17:4 3 Jn 19:30 4 ibid 5 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 6 Jn 17:1

**Christ's Identity Becomes Ours** <sup>1</sup>

*Abba's Gift to us*

*Is Word Enfleshed – RECEIVED by us*

*... Christ's identity, shared with us*

*... His mission, ours.*

*Our Gift to Abba*

*Is Word Enfleshed – RETURNED by us*

*... Christ's identity, now to share*

*... Our mission-to-others.*

## The Church's God-Sense <sup>1</sup>

*Our faith IS sensing God  
In everyone ... everywhere ... and everywhen.  
Yet this faith is but a sharing  
In the Church Community's God-Sense  
... Which senses INTUITIVELY  
The Presence of Love !  
The various truths of our faith  
Give direction and clarity to this God-Sense,  
Our heart's sharings ... its homecoming urge !*

**“I’ll Catch You !”** <sup>1</sup>

*(Words from the Cross, VII)*

*“Into Your hands, I entrusted my spirit.” (Lk 23:46)*

To TRUST

*Is to be lost in a crowd in a foreign country*

*Without maps, wallet, or a known destination,*

*Trying to scan ... and scan ... the crowd,*

*And then, to have your gaze*

*Alight on the welcome face*

*Of a FRIEND !*

To TRUST

*Is, having sinned “seventy seven times,”* <sup>2</sup>

*To have a familiar presence*

*Touch you on the shoulder*

*And say with warmth,*

*“It’s good to see you !*

*I forgive you !”*

To TRUST

*Is to be a child, stranded at night*

*On a second floor patio, engulfed by flames,*

*... WHO on hearing his father's call,*

*"Jesse, I'm here !*

*Jump into the smoke !*

*I'll catch you !*

*You can't see me,*

*But I can see you !"*

*—LAUNCHES HIMSELF into the smoke*

*... With his arms outstretched ...*

*Into the PROMISED EMBRACE of his Dad !*

THUS DID JESUS TRUST ABBA

*... In passing through death :*

*'O Abba, "my life IS in Your hands"!' <sup>3</sup>*

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1 Poem 712, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, Clayfield Community, April 2006. Week 7 (end of retreat).

2 Mt 18:22 3 Ps 31:5



**Being Eucharist** <sup>1</sup>

*O Paschal Jesus,*

*In Eucharist*

*–We are enfleshed with Your Body ...*

*Such that the Body of our Church fellowship*

*Is the human visibility of Your Divine Fellowship !*

*–We are enlivened with Your Blood,*

*Kept circulating by these hearts,*

*Alive with Your love !*

*O Abba, Love of all our lives !*

*Release Your Holy Spirit of Fellowship*

*To move us to GATHER*

*Only the good in others,*

*And to be Eucharist for them*

*In Your Beloved !*

## Confident in You <sup>1</sup>

*Faith*

*Is gazing upon You,*

*And being CONFIDENT in You,*

*O Crucified Beloved*

—RISEN

*Within everyone and everything*

*... Evident in those, in whom*

*Grace has become translucent.*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 714, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Holy Week, 2006.

NOTE: This is the first of a series of poems, exploring what faith is ... over a period of several years.

## Lancing Our Hearts <sup>1</sup>

*(Easter to Pentecost Retreat – 7 Weeks)*

THEME: *“So He went IN, to STAY with them.” (Lk 24:29)*

*Jesus Ascended is always with us  
And REMAINS WITHIN our communities ...  
Our eyes of flesh don't recognize Him  
But our eyes of faith do !  
They do so when our lives are Eucharistic :  
When we tend to the brokenness in others,  
And allow others to tend to our brokenness.*

*The Ascended Jesus is the God of woundedness ...  
Grateful for His identification, as “the one pierced” <sup>2</sup>  
– The one still with the lanced heart, icon of His once “crushed” spirit ! <sup>3</sup>  
So, as shocking as our wounds, of body and psyche can be,  
– In those we tend, and in us when tended to –  
They are, paradoxically, truly glorious,  
Because Jesus Ascended identifies with them,  
And makes them HIS OWN :  
“By His wounds, we are healed.” <sup>4</sup>*

*From these DEPTHS of our brokenness and woundedness,  
Risen Life radiates healing and fellowship !  
It is in the MIDST of our being broken open  
–In our Eucharistic ‘HOUR’– <sup>5</sup>  
That our gaze of faith recognizes pure Love !*

*Yet, OUR efforts are unable to bring this Love into focus :  
Love only reveals His Face to a crucified few –  
Lingering only for the time it takes  
... To crown our heads with everyday thorns,  
... To pierce our inner complacency with stark compassion  
... And to lance, even our hearts,  
So a deeper love of ours can flow.*

*Still, Love's Face fades,  
As our suffering-in-faith subsides  
... With the Crucified and Ascended One patiently yearning  
For another Eucharistic 'HOUR'  
... For faith to open our eyes !*

## Home-making <sup>1</sup>

THEME:                    “Know, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt 28:20)

*(Christians speaking ...)*

*I-AM-WHO-AM has risen, in Jesus,*  
– *Within Jesus Ascended, the Cosmic Christ*  
– *Within us, as graced individuals*  
– *Within us, as a graced community*  
    ... *TO BE with us*  
    *TO ABIDE with us*  
    *TO MAKE A HOME in us !*

*It is a home made ready by Love –*  
*“My Father, and I, will love you ...” <sup>2</sup>*  
*But the home-making is NOT of our doing –*  
*“And WE WILL COME to you ...” <sup>3</sup>*  
*So that our only responsibility is to LIVE LIKE JESUS –*  
*To “Keep His word.” <sup>4</sup>*

*Then, ours will be a hope*  
*Anchored in Eternity,*  
*Whose warranty is the Spirit of God*  
... *The SEAL of Their Fellowship. <sup>5</sup>*

*Father, Son and Spirit will live Their Life of Love within US,  
Pitching Their tent with US,  
Dwelling with US,  
In human tabernacles,  
Embodied in Christ's Ascended Body  
... The Ark of Glory,  
... God's Presence with us "always, to the end of the age." <sup>6</sup>*

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1 Poem 716, Week 2, Easter to Pentecost Retreat, Clayfield Community, May 2006.

2 Jn 14:23 3 IBID 4 IBID 5 2Cor 1:22 6 Mt 28:20

**Mystery of Bountifulness** <sup>1</sup>

*O Selfless God ! Mystery of Bountifulness !  
Ceaselessly pouring Yourself – Your Life, Your Love  
... Your overflowing Love ...  
Into our limited, little lives  
– Lives of low horizons, ungracious receiving, conditioned giving !*

*O Infinitely generous God !  
Carry us within the powerful flow of Your Grace !  
Engulf us in the torrents of Your Love !  
– So that our horizons, become limitless like Yours  
– Our focus, one with Your Son's Eternal Gazing on Your Loveliness  
– Our hearts, IN His, open to embrace all.*

**You, Yourself, Always Draw Us** <sup>1</sup>

*Abba You show, in tender-hearted Jesus,  
That You are not only the source  
Of our every IMPULSE TO LOVE,  
But that, more deeply  
In our EVERY movement of Love for the other,  
You, Yourself always DRAW us  
To the heart of the other  
... Knowingly, or not.*



**Seeing You** <sup>1</sup>

*THEME:*            *‘Lord, let us see the Father and we’ll be content ;  
Jesus said to Phillip ... ‘Whoever sees me, sees the Father’’ (Jn 14:8,9)*

*As we see You, Jesus, in our hurting sister or brother,  
Abba draws forth, from us, a healing touch  
And, through it, diffuses that peace  
– For healed and healer –  
That is His Gift,  
Leaving us,  
“Content.”* <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 719, Week 3, Easter to Pentecost Retreat, Clayfield Community, May 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Jn 14:8

# Folio Thirty-Seven

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# Folio Thirty-Seven

## *Poems 720-739*

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## Eye to Eye <sup>1</sup>

*The TREASURE “buried in the field” <sup>2</sup>*

*... For the contemplative Christian,  
Is not some activity or prayer ... to be uncovered,  
To be put at the service of love ;  
No – it is being empowered by Love itself!*

*While Love draws Christ’s contemplative followers*

*To act when IT’S TIME,*

*To pray when IT’S TIME,*

*Contrarivise, Love empowers the contemplative’s very PERSON*

*–To give themselves, to surrender themselves to Love !  
... At the time of Love’s choosing !*

*Thus, to truly ‘treasure’ love,  
Is to continue to sacrifice oneself,  
To risk looking our sister or brother in the eye,  
Eye to eye  
... With Christ’s simplicity,  
And, like Him, to be of service to THEIR deeper needs !*

*Gazing with Christ’s gaze, thus,  
Both exposes us to His Cross, but also to share His Glory,  
That is, to behold His Father’s Face ...  
As Abba lovingly gazes upon His Ascending Beloved  
–The apple of HIS eye !  
This is the deepest ‘treasure’ one can hope for !*

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1 Poem 720, Week 3, Easter to Pentecost Retreat, Clayfield, Brisbane, May 2006.

2 Mt 13:44.

## To Be Inclusive <sup>1</sup>

*The very essence of God's love*  
*... Of Three Persons being One Love ...*  
*Is to be inclusive,*  
*So that there is –*  
*No going to God*  
*Alone !*  
*No revelation to our spirits,*  
*Without communion !*  
*No evangelisation,*  
*Without fellowship !*  
*No experience of Divine Love,*  
*Without being TOGETHER !*

## Sur-rendering Self <sup>1</sup>

THEME : “Father, may they be one is us as You are in me, and I am in you” Jn 17:21.

*The Father gives Himself, so completely*  
*... Sacrifices His Self, so totally*  
*... Gives with such utter freedom*  
*That His Word – His Son – is totally OTHER :*  
*Totally free in His own Person ...*  
*Totally INDEPENDENT of the Father ...*  
*And thus, fully able to CHOOSE to be*  
*Totally DEPENDENT on the Father !*

*While the Father’s Gift of Himself*  
*– As Gift GIVEN –*  
*Is the surrender of SELF*  
*In the Spirit of Them both ...*  
*The Son’s RECEPTION of the Father’s Self*  
*–As Gift RECEIVED –*  
*Is en-Spirited in the Spirit of Them both !*

*WITHIN GOD, ALL THAT IS RECEIVED IS GIVEN –*  
*So the Son gives His Self totally to the Father :*  
*Totally cutting His Self off, from His own Person*  
*Sur-rendering His Self ...*  
*To the Father.*

*While this surrender of the Son's Self*  
*–Freely and solely offered to the Father –*  
*Is the Gift GIVEN*  
*In the Spirit of Them both ...*  
*As Gift RECEIVED by the Father,*  
*It is en-Spirited in the Spirit of Them both !*  
*O what a wondrously mutual TRI-UNION !*

*Thus, in the GIVING*  
*The Father and the Son, each gives His total SELF*  
*In the Spirit ;*  
*And, in the RECEIVING*  
*Each receives the Other*  
*In the Spirit.*  
*O what a TRI-UNION !*  
*O what a Spirit of Love*  
*Who unites us to this Fellowship of God !*

## Love Enables Love <sup>1</sup>

*God's gracious Love  
Begets the gift of faith ;  
Our faith creates hope,  
And enables love ;  
Thus Love enables love in us.*

*And this love draws forth more love  
... Enabling love  
In others !*



## Our Gift to You <sup>1</sup>

*(This is the prayer of ANY two Divine Persons to the Third :)*

*Our reception  
Of-who-You-are-in-Us  
Is our giving,  
Our mutual gift,  
To You.*

## The Best in Monasticism <sup>1</sup>

*Abba, Most Holy,*

*Reproduce in us*

*All that is best in monasticism*

*... To surrender to Your Transcendence,*

*... And to celebrate Your Fellowship.*

## Entering into Christ's Heart <sup>1</sup>

THEME: *"Christ has risen, and shines upon us  
Whom he has redeemed by His blood." Easter Liturgy.*

*The Easter Christ dawns WITHIN our hearts  
... Colouring our spirits with a rainbow of emotions,  
... Quickening our hearts with the intensifying warmth of His Presence !  
As our yearning hearts SETTLE within His Embrace,  
This glow of spirits, in deep communion,  
Suffuses into the radiance of a deeper Fellowship  
... As rivers of peace, sweep us, within Him  
Into Love's Enrapture.*

*Yes our Easter 'Goel' claims us AS HIS OWN  
... With still wounded hands, gently leading each of us,  
Tenderly gathering us together, shepherding us.  
We enter, as it were, through His side's gaping wound  
... Into a heart – pierced, open and inviting ,  
... Into a heart, opening more deeply  
Into ABBA'S Heart of Love,  
... Into Love's Abyss ...*

*Drawn within Christ's heart, we feel  
... Revitalized by its crimson lifeblood !  
... Transformed into His likeness, with others  
– A universe of hearts become His !*

*And, drawn, deeper still, within Abba's Heart ...*

*As Love's Eternal Gaze rests upon Christ's Face,*

*Our eyes meet Love's*

*... And sensing Love's delight,*

*We, with Christ, BREATHE FORTH OUR JOY :*

*'O Love ! O Love of all loves !'*

## Wholly His <sup>1</sup>

THEME : “Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.” Jn 15:4.

*The Christian life we live is not OURS*

*But Christ's !*

*It is an exhilarating opportunity for us to live out*

*Christ's own poverty – and plenitude !*

*Because Jesus' human nature had no other personhood*

*Than that of the Eternal Word,*

*Jesus Himself lived out a supreme form of poverty,*

*And of a hidden, unsensed plenitude !*

*Thus, for us to live IN Christ, AS Christ,*

*To possess the mind of Christ,*

*To feel with the heart of Christ –*

*Is, in reality, to allow Christ's personality*

*TO ACT AS OURS :*

*To so co-penetrate and suffuse ours*

*As to be WHOLLY HIS !*

*Through our CHOSEN impoverishment of self, in Christ,*

*We are wholly prepared IN the Spirit,*

*To receive the Gift of Christ Himself*

*A Gift of Plenitude*

*... Also available IN the Spirit,*

*To give to others' emptying hearts !*

## Together, We Become Yours <sup>1</sup>

*Abba,*

*As Your faith-enspirited people*

*... It is only TOGETHER,*

*That we can fully recognize*

*The breadth, and the length, and the depth*

*Of Your Gift : –*

*... Listening with trusting ears,*

*TOGETHER we deeply absorb Your Truth,*

*As our love enfleshes the Word, in receptive lives.*

*... Thirsting with open hearts,*

*TOGETHER we drink in Your Goodness,*

*Showing forth Your Beloved to our world.*

*... Yearning with wonder-filled eyes,*

*TOGETHER our lives are beautified by Your Gaze,*

*Reflected in the Christ-like faces, of all in Him.*

*So it is that Your Love envelopes us,*

*Not as individuals, but TOGETHER ...*

*Gathering us into Your Community*

*– A Community that can choose to TRANSCEND itself*

*By giving itself, like You, in love !*

## God's Approval <sup>1</sup>

THEME: *"God has approved what you have done,  
And Love will bless you eternally."* Cf Acts 10:34,5

*God's approving us ...  
Is our Abba-God beholding us  
As His Beloved !*

*God's Spirit – within this Eternal Moment –  
Removes the VEIL OF TIME-SPACE for us,  
Opening us to rejoice in this limitless Fellowship of God,  
Who, in Gazing upon us, AS the Beloved,  
Enables us to behold  
The Face of Love !  
... To be en-Spirited !*

*Within this Moment ...  
Our thinking becomes that of Christ,  
Our consciousness,  
That of Christ's all-encompassing, divinely-simple consciousness,  
Our memory, imagining, and reflecting – suffused by His !  
Our mind becomes that of the Beloved !*

*Our loving too ... deluges forth AS CHRIST'S  
Brimming Abba's heart to the full !  
This Moment, too,  
Encompasses Christ's handing over of His Kingdom of Love to Abba  
The Moment of Eternal Mutuality !  
For us, IN HIM, it is the ASCENSION, and the ACCEPTANCE of HUMANITY !*



## Sharing Christ's Communal Identity <sup>1</sup>

THEME:       *“We become WORTHY of possessing Him,  
When we abandon ourselves completely to Him.” (St Teresa of Calcutta)*

*To be called to pray IN the Paschal Spirit,  
Or IN that Spirit, to show love to any brothers or sisters,  
Is to surrender ... to Abba who raised Jesus our of death !  
And to share ... Christ's communal identity and destiny !*

*Sharing in Calvary's saving action, in any way,  
Is to give the Paschal Christ, a Presence in our world  
– A UNIQUE, TOGETHERING, IN-GATHERING PRESENCE –  
Whereby His very Person, becomes a COMMUNAL IDENTITY  
... One, in whom, many can be gifted a share,  
And, through faithfulness, gifted with His COMMUNAL DESTINY.*

*In offering our suffering to the Paschal Christ, FOR OTHERS,  
Our brother Jesus channels His regenerative healing  
To our wounded humanity, here and now, through EACH OTHER !  
This humbling grace of Jesus, draws people to a life of selflessness,  
Drawing them TOGETHER within His own Ascended Person  
–A universalized, utterly-open humanity,  
Eternally en-Spirited, to gift the Spirit  
To all gathered within Him !*

*To be drawn into this Divinely precious space*  
*–Within Jesus Ascended, radiantly alive with the Spirit for us –*  
*Is to have holocausted one's very SELF,*  
*To be radically OPENED TO ASSUME CHRIST'S IDENTITY!*  
*His is a wondrous COMMUNAL identity,*  
*Wherein our brother God and humanity can commune*  
*... Being Fathered into Life, in Christ, by our Abba-God!*  
*... And wholly en-Spirited, by the Spirit of Fellowship!*

*In Eucharist we NOW, not only share in Christ's communal identity,*  
*But also, yet still hiddenly, in His COMMUNAL DESTINY.*  
*We are with Him, ASCENDING to Abba's welcoming Embrace,*  
*Inclusive of all gathered in His Person!*

*Within our Ascending Jesus, sharing HIS self-surpassing love,*  
*We, I, surrender all whom we carry in our hearts, to Abba*  
*– So that, IN Christ, Abba's Spirit*  
*Can en-Spirit all gathered here,*  
*Into a wondrous TOGETHERNESS!*  
*Thus, this enables all to share in Christ's own destiny*  
*– His Eternal Fellowship IN and WITH God!*

## Our Companions Presence <sup>1</sup>

*In our wanderlust years,  
Our heart's ear heard mostly echoes of the self :  
... Our self-regarding ambitions pre-occupying our time  
... Our key achievements, highlighting our selves  
– With the result that our hearts began to glory  
In self-absorbed, transient successes.*

*As we became convinced that these successes  
Flowed from OUR hands,  
Ironically our hearts slowly DEFLATED  
... Content with self-assessment, comfortable with compromise,  
... And, with harder selfish choices, disguised by us  
As 'assertive' or 'mutually gratifying'.*

*So, as time piled one self-deception upon the next,  
Our heart's estrangement deepened ...  
Feeding on a diet of self-indulgence  
... Which dulled, and began to deaden and obscure  
Our heart's true inner values.*

*In time our heart faltered, edging into doubt ...  
"Is it all worthwhile?"  
Then, as we dissipated our energies  
On even more directionless projects ...  
Our heart FRACTURED and OPENED  
– As we lost our sense of our CENTRE !*

WITHIN,

*Regret and remorse flooded our spirit :*

*Our betrayal of ourselves, and of others*

*Left us broken-hearted.*

*Ironically, but very, humanly,*

*This time of 'being-broken-open', and of woundedness,*

*Of facing our self-centeredness and irresponsibility,*

*Became a time of re-orientation, regeneration and renewal :*

*A time to be receptive, to listen to our INNER HEART,*

*A time to be attuned to its rhythms and direction.*

*This homecoming to one's inner heart*

*Is a time for decision-making*

*A time to turn from self, to focus truly on others.*

*It is nonetheless long, bewildering, and painful,*

*And, seemingly, a solo experience.*

*Yet, mysteriously,*

*To faithfully follow the map of the human heart,*

*Is to BE LED,*

*To BE ACCOMPANIED,*

*And, even, to BE CARRIED ...*

*Because wounded hearts do not invent their own maps*

*Or devise their own way forward ...*

*... The way is mapped out by the Wounded One.*  
*For, in our homecoming,*  
*There is a SENSE –*  
*Of one's hand being HELD,*  
*Of the BREATH of a wind in our stilled world,*  
*Of a VOICE carried on the breeze ... beckoning,*  
*Of the GRACE OF JOY filling hearts with promise,*  
*Of an emerging INNER PEACE that unifies,*  
*Of a hope-buoying LIGHT in the midst of our darkness,*  
*And of a settling sense of a COMPANIONING PRESENCE*  
*... Whether on the sunlit terraces of life*  
*... In dappled, mystifying forest shadows*  
*... Or within the sightlessness of a mountain's cloud.*

*And more deeply ... within all this,*  
*Within our fears, within our suffering,*  
*There is the mysterious sense of SOMEONE*  
*Whose heart has already feared, already suffered,*  
*And endured ALL – for us ... for us all,*  
*Who is HERE ... in the NOW ... for those whose hearts are OPEN.*

*Little by little we sense that our hearts  
Are being rebuilt  
On the ruins of the old  
– Transforming all that was good in our past.  
There is an emerging sense, a graced awareness,  
Of BEING DRAWN –  
Out of turmoil, into the heart's STILLNESS  
Out of contending voices, into harmony's SILENCE  
Out of exerting control, into peaceful WAITING  
Out of indifference, into a spirited ATTENTIVENESS  
Out of merely coping, into an engaged JOY  
Out of restlessness, into a receptive PEACE.*

*To our delight,  
We find that the Companioning Presence  
Of our pilgrimage into our inner-heart  
... Seemingly always available to welcome us HOME ...  
Has the face of the Crucified, Risen One  
– The One we have SET OUR HEARTS ON ... unknowingly !*

*Paradoxically,  
His own Paschal Journey becomes OURS !  
In coming to love Him, we come to love ourselves.  
He, the glory of humanity, becomes our ideal, our destiny :  
He becomes our passage to Life, our homecoming joy !  
In His renewed humanity, we can COMMUNE with God !*

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1 Poem 731, Six Day Retreat, Yamba, late June, 2006, Day 1.

(Yamba is a holiday, retirement town, at the mouth of the Clarence River, NSW)

NOTE: Sr. Yvonne Parker S.G.S. was again, the facilitator, and my spiritual director.

## As Jaded As Jeremiah <sup>1</sup>

*(Author :)*

*Your Beloved's PASSION, my Abba-God, fires my passion !*

*So, deep in Your Depths*

*... Where Your Transformative Spirit moves ...*

*Free me, to bare my spirit's core,*

*To abandon all to You – as Your Beloved did.*

*The more tenderly You draw me to Your Heart,*

*The broader You spread my compassion ;*

*The deeper You enable my love,*

*The more You expand my heart to encompass all !*

*Coveted by You, in the womb,*

*Covenanted, through life, as Your kin,*

*Encompassed by Your Enrapturing Spirit of Love ...*

*I am overwhelmed by You, my God,*

*And galvanized – to challenge Your People ...*

*To open their hearts to You !*

*In deepest truth*

*I am humbled, stunned ...*

*By Your empowering intimacy*

*... And feel impelled*

*To take Your People to my heart !*

*Called to Gospel celibacy,  
I am set aside for ALL Your People,  
And, freed and favoured ... within Your friendship,  
I am "given up" Paschally, like Jesus,  
More radically, FOR them !*

*Yes, in paying this Paschal price ...  
Increasingly, stress and strife characterize my life  
– In the long, drawn-out process,  
Of separating Your wheat, in me,  
From my very own darnel !*

*At times, my heart is thrown into turmoil  
By Your demands ...  
Stunned by being derided  
For Your cause ...  
And worn out, by being shunned  
In Your service ...*

*Yes, part of me wants to rebel  
Against such a taskmaster – as You !  
In such escapist interludes,  
It's easy to lament that You ever enticed me, Abba  
You know I've even prayed to You, Lord –  
"Is this how You want it to be ?  
... If so, have pity on me,  
Relieve me of Your burdens  
–Just make me a prophet, FREE OF CARE !"*



*However, with my spirit drained and depleted,  
I am still faced with the STARKLY OBVIOUS :  
Your power is inexhaustible !  
Your wisdom depthless !  
I am enchanted, still, by Your Vision,  
Seduced by Your passion for life !  
Most of all, the allure of Your Intimacy seizes me !  
Your Love, Your Spirit  
Is unquenchable !  
Your call to surrender all  
Is irresistible !  
My heart cannot hold out !*

*You, O Abba, murmur ... "If you surrender ALL  
Abandon your very spirit, to ME –  
My people will surrender THEIRS to Me !  
I have taken you by the hand  
... Ever since You have carried My People in your heart  
... Since that time, in mid-adulthood,  
When I chose TO ENPEOPLE YOUR SPIRIT,  
WITH THE SPIRITS of My People !" <sup>2</sup>*

*"So now within your heart-space, I want you  
To pray for those who can't pray, and for those who won't pray ;  
To commune with them, with heartfelt brotherliness.  
Fully ! And wholly UNRESERVEDLY !  
No looking aside. No lingering indulgences."*

*What can I say to You,*

*O Wondrous, Wondrous Abba ?*

*Mute as clay ...*

*Docile as clay ...*

*Receptive as clay ...*

*Mould me in Jesus' image,*

*O Potter God !*

*Transform me !*

*Vitalize me !*

*Radiate my spirit !*

*Resurrect my heart !*

*Draw me to Yourself, IN HIM,*

*O Paschal Father !*

*Thus en-Spirited, to embrace Your People UNRESERVEDLY ...*

*I now feel, within my spirit's depths,*

*The sadness of a sad God,*

*Saddened by ALL SINS*

*Against Fellowship*

*And against longings*

*To live life in God's COMPANY !*

*My heart reels : comes the realisation*

*That I NEED to suffer alienation*

*If I am to help rescue, for You,*

*An alienated people !*

*Alone ? Never !*

*Only with the remnant goodness, surfacing in ALL such people !*

*Only with Your RESURGENT Paschal Spirit !*

*O Abba-God, Empowering One,  
Fire US with the Spirit  
Of Your Beloved's ASCENDANT HUMANITY  
–To rouse Your People's apathy,  
–To release their spirits' INHIBITIONS,  
–To let their spirits SOAR !*

*Thus, in resurrecting Your People's hopes,  
And in re-charging them with en-thusiam,<sup>3</sup>  
Make room for such transformation IN OUR HEARTS !  
And so that all hearts STAY TRUE TO YOU,  
Carve out a heart-space, for faithfulness, within US !  
Equally, that THEY may experience the effects of Your grace NOW,  
Infuse US with Your Spirit ! Suffuse US with delight !  
So that ALL ... the faithful, the indifferent, the alienated  
Can delight in Your Loveliness, and in Your Fellowship !*

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1 Poem 732, Six Day Retreat, Yamba, June 2006, Day 2.

2 See NOTE for Poem 168, Tertianship course, Rome, 1991.

3 From the Greek, 'en-thusiasm' is literally, (enjoying) 'God within'.

## Heart Speaks to Heart <sup>1</sup>

(CHRISTIANS TOGETHER :)

*Although there are many voices ... God's People*

*– Once AS Israel, now AS Christ –*

*Pray with our praying heart.*

*The flow of our prayer*

*Mirrors both the desert meanderings of Israel's seduction by Yahweh,*

*And now our seduction and conquest, IN CHRIST, by Abba !*

*Such prayer is a lover's interchange, marked on our part, by ...*

*Fidelity or fickleness, fondness or fear,*

*Friendship or frustration, feast or famine !*

*Often, counterpointing our heartfelt prayer ...*

*Father us ! Guide us ! Nourish us ! Protect us !*

*Is Abba's insisting to us, that –*

*To be tested, to be re-oriented, to be challenged,*

*To be asked to change, and to be called to surrender*

*... Is EQUALLY prayer !*

*Our Love-God's enticing us to PARTNER Him in love,*

*All occurs within Christ's spacious HEART !*

*It is here, that Abba's and our hearts meet !*

*Here, in Jesus' Paschal Heart,*

*Is played out Abba's seduction of humanity ;*

*Here, HEART SPEAKS TO HEART ! <sup>2</sup>*

*Here hearts, DIVINE and HUMAN, blend as one !*

*Here, ultimately, the Paschal Covenant of Love is solemnized !*

*Here, in Jesus Ascended, the hearts of earth and heaven*

*Are wed !*

*Thus now, in prayer, especially in Eucharist,  
To 'CALL TO HEART' our Lover-God Abba, is  
... To be re-Covenanted with Him,  
... To be re-identified with the People He loves !  
It is to enter into a twinning of hearts between Abba and His People,  
WITHIN the wondrous HEART of His Beloved !*

*If, as is sometimes the case,  
We enter into this prayer, with Jacob's consciousness  
As "one who struggles with God", <sup>3</sup>  
We'll emerge with the consciousness of Jesus,  
Whose "meek and lowly heart" gentles all He encounters. <sup>4</sup>*

*Within this prayer of wedded hearts  
Our passions engage, minds converse, and spirits commune !  
Indeed, our very cells, as it were, align themselves with Christ's,  
Whose Risen blood courses through our spirit's arteries  
—Because our UPLIFTED natural humanity shares  
In Christ's ENABLING, GLORIFIED, yet hidden "new humanity"! <sup>5</sup>*

*Again, as Abba's HEART speaks to ours  
—Whispering our mutual love —  
Christ's Paschal Spirit of Union, even more deeply,  
Weds our spirits ... and twins our hearts !*

*In such wedded prayer, that best of all fathers, Abba  
— As once He did for Jesus, His MOST ADORABLE Child —  
Collects our tears, steadies our stumblings,  
Brightens our smiles, and shepherds our futures.*

*Yes ! Abba is the Loving One :*  
... *Who freely allows our hearts, to re-shape others' hearts ;*  
... *Who, in prayer, takes our hand,*  
*Strolls with us, through His gardens*  
*Through Gethsemane, to Paradise ;* <sup>6</sup>  
... *Who puts His arm about our shoulder*  
*And draws us to His warmth,*  
*To the centre of His care ;*  
... *Who presses His cheek against ours*  
*– Our leprous faces, pitted by sin –*  
*And en-raptures us*  
*With fondest love.*

*In times of romance, within this marriage,*  
*Creation can mirror for us, Abba's Face of Love*  
*Who gazes with delight, upon His world*  
*With His eyes coming to rest, upon us,*  
*His Beloved's earth brothers and sisters.*  
*At such times, Love's Spirit moves us*  
*To heartfelt awe, and deep gratefulness*  
*As we behold in each other,*  
*Wondrous images of His CREATIVE kindness.*

*Thus, in ALL of this,  
Jesus Ascended becomes our Psalmody, our Prayer,  
–The Covenant between Abba and us, the Meeting Place of Hearts.  
He breathes His Spirit of Prayer either into us, or to Abba  
... For, truly, only God can commune with God!  
And Abba, in joyfully receiving our prayer,  
Embraces us within the heart of His Son  
... Where, HEART SPEAKS TO HEART!  
  
O Abba, within Jesus' wondrous heart-space,  
Tenderly soothe our pain with Your touch;  
Flow through every wound of ours – as You did Jesus',  
Reviving us with Your luminous Easter healing!  
Breathe the Breath of Your Loveliness  
Through our every cell ...  
So we sing out our whole REALITY to You  
... Echoing Your Beloved's own heart-song  
As He gives voice  
To the yearnings and longings of us, His kin.*

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1 Poem 733, Six Day Retreat, Yamba, June 2006, Day 3.

2 Phrase of Bl. Henry Cardinal Newman.

3 Cf Gen 32:29 4 Mt 11:28 5 Eph 2:15 N.R.S.V. 6 'Paradisum' is Greek for 'garden of delights'.

## God's Virgin, Bride, and Mother <sup>1</sup>

(PART 1 of a TRILOGY)

*"God-seeking hearts will rejoice" sings the Psalmist ; <sup>2</sup>*

*Mary's was such a heart.*

*As a younger girl, she was conscious*

*Not only of her life being a GIFT FROM YAHWEH*

*But also of herself being a GIFT TO YAHWEH ... <sup>3</sup>*

*As she was PRESENTED to 'El Qadosh, God the Holy', <sup>4</sup>*

*In His own Jerusalem Temple. <sup>5</sup>*

*This sense of Giftedness –*

*Of being within the Circle of Yahweh's 'hesed', or loving-kindness,*

*Of serving God's people, in God's home*

*... Surely grew and blossomed within Mary's consciousness.*

*Out of it emerged a self-sacrificing response*

*To Yahweh's most intimate invitation*

*–To solemnly vow her virginity,*

*The whole of her life, the totality of her future*

*To Yahweh ALONE ! <sup>6</sup>*



*Then, as a young adolescent*  
*... Sensitive to Yabweh's claim on her virginal heart ...*  
*Mary's self-consciousness of wholly belonging to Yabweh*  
*Has the deep support of her loving parents, Joachim and Anne.*  
*Knowing her years of Temple service*  
*Had, by custom, to end by age thirteen,* <sup>7</sup>  
*They did not know want to see her profoundly cherished VOW*  
*Circumscribed in any way, much less nullified.*  
*So ... with Anne's urging,*  
*"Joachim searched among his Davidian clansmen for a husband*  
*—Who would guard his daughter's virginity".* <sup>8</sup>  
*It seemed an impossible task.*

*However, aided by the Hebrew custom of memorizing whole genealogies,*  
*His search was graced with a unique candidate, Joseph, the Natzorean. #*  
*Recently widowed by the death of his young wife 'Mary'* <sup>9</sup>  
*... And being the young father of four sons, and two daughters* <sup>10</sup>  
*— "Isn't this Mary's son, the brother of JAMES, JOSEPH, JUDAS and SIMON ?*  
*And aren't his SISTERS here with us"? (Mk 6:3) —*  
*Joseph graciously consented, under the Torah, to wed Mary,*  
*But also to honour and reverence her vow of consecrated celibacy*  
*... So treasured by herself, and by her loving parents.*

*Mary was utterly grateful to Joseph, her 'Goel'*  
*— Her Torah-sanctioned 'defender', 'champion', and, 'marital redeemer'!*  
*Mary, in a truly selfless way, also saw this proposed 'special' marriage,*  
*As a marvellous opportunity to be of significant help, 'in loco parentis',*  
*To Joseph, in nurturing and rearing his "still small children"* <sup>11</sup>  
*... Even though James, the eldest, was then about nine.*

*Following Joseph's open-hearted consent,  
Mary journeyed north, probably chaperoned by Joachim, her Dad,  
To stay with still OTHER relatives in Nazareth  
... As an intended sign of her Betrothal to Joseph,  
And to prepare socially and emotionally for their special Wedding.*

*In this time of waiting ...  
Mary felt that the God of her VIRGINAL HEART  
–To whom ALONE she had consecrated herself–  
Was so wonderfully protective of their SPOUSAL BOND  
... As her Divine Bridegroom ...  
That He had devised for her this truly special marriage  
–Within which her virginal vow could now bloom,  
And within which she could live, for her Diving Spouse ALONE!*

*Then ... one morning ... Mary's whole world changed!  
... Her horizons irreversibly widened!  
... The challenge to her faith, immeasurably deepened!*

*Encompassed by the awesomeness  
Of Gabriel's initial appearance, and his greeting her as "favoured one",<sup>12</sup>*

*There came THOSE WORDS –  
"And now, you will CONCEIVE in your womb  
And BEAR A SON ..."*

*This Divine invitation-command  
Had a stunning effect on Mary's equanimity :  
Puzzlement and consternation*

*Followed ...*

*What of Yahweh's and her SPOUSAL BOND,*

*So recently and beautifully affirmed ?*

*Mary ached with all her being,*

*To be utterly responsive to Yahweh's Dream for her :*

*... For THIS*

*Now to include child-bearing ,*

*Left her in stunned astonishment ...*

*Her only question was "How" ? <sup>13</sup>*

*Then with Gabriel's ultimate assurance*

*That "the Holy Spirit ... the power of the Most High*

*Will OVERSHADOW you" ... <sup>14</sup>*

*And that "Nothing will be impossible with God", <sup>15</sup>*

*Mary's utter faith*

*In her NOW 'Abba-Spouse'*

*Overflowed !*

*It radiated forth from her*

*In the most profound SURRENDER of her spirit ;*

*It moved her*

*TO BOW HER HEAD*

*In adoration*

*To Abba her Spouse, to her Beloved Son WITHIN, and to the Spirit of Conception*

*– To her Loving God –*

*... For all humanity, and FOR herself !*

*With ultimate simplicity,*

*Mary, agreed to become the means*

*Of "the Son of the Most High's" entry <sup>16</sup>*

*Into LIFE-AS-A-HUMAN-BEING*

*–Into being one of us !*

*This Spirit of Conception, this Spirit of Mystery*

*Encompassed Mary's spirit*

*– As it was enfolded within Abba's Love –*

*Waiting upon the very moment*

*When the bloom of her faith FULLY opened,*

*To receive ...*

*“The Dawning from on high, breaking upon her”.<sup>17</sup>*

*With Mary's “Let Your Word be done to me”<sup>18</sup>*

*A Glory*

*... More glorious than the glory*

*Of a universe of galaxies*

*Spinning in splendour ...*

*Came to rest,*

*Like feather down,*

*Within her heart,*

*Within her womb,*

*Within Isra-el,*

*Within humanity itself.*

*In that moment,*

*Yahweh's Virgin*

*Becomes*

*Abba's Bride !*

*And His Beloved's Mother !*

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1 Poem 734, Part 1 of a Trilogy (Poem 734 – Poem 736);

Six Day Retreat, Yamba, June 2 2006, Day 4.

2 Ps 68. (Grail). 3 B Pixner O.S.B. With Jesus in Jerusalem p19.

4 The Church since ancient times has Eucharistically celebrated The Presentation of Mary in the Temple – now, on Nov 21.

5 Pixner p16, 19 6 IBID p20 7 IBID p21 8 IBID p21

9 Catholic Dictionary. 10 Pixner p21 11 IBID p21 12 to 18: All N.R.S.V.

12 Lk 1:30 13 Lk1:34 14 Lk 1:35 15 Lk 1:37 16 Lk 1:32 17 Cf Lk 1:78 18 Cf Lk 1:38.

# Not only Joseph, but Jesus also could call Himself, a NATZOREAN. It is the name of the Davidic Clan who, in about 100BC, formed the hamlet of Nazareth, and settled this area, on their return from Babylon (as with other clans to elsewhere in Galilee). The name, from the Hebrew NEI<sup>Z</sup>ER, means “the shoot of a root”, as in the Messianic Is 11:1 – “A shoot will arise from the stump of Jesse’, and, revealingly, from Rev 22:16b, “I (Jesus) am the root and offspring of David”. This exegesis seems more telling and plausible than the surmised connection to Jesus being a NAZIRITE (Jg 13:5,7). Matthew’s prophetic word, “He shall be called a Natzorean” (2:23) now has real impact and depth. The Natzoreans had Essene sympathies (B.PIXNER).

## The Mystery of Mary's 'Fiat' <sup>1</sup>

*(Part 2 of a TRILOGY)*

*Mary's 'fiat' was both her WEDDING VOW to God,*

*And the consent enabling her to MOTHER GOD!*

*In that Moment,*

*Abba and Mary are ETERNALLY WEDDED IN LOVE*

*– A Mystery sensed by Mary,*

*Yet a Mystery ETERNALLY unfolding*

*Within Mary's understanding ,*

*As her CAPACITY to understand*

*Ever deepens and expands.*

*To the extent*

*That it MIRRORS our "willing" humanity's 'fiat',*

*A similar graced unfolding*

*Will be gifted to us.*

*This Eternal unfolding within Mary*

*Is her poverty*

*... A reflection of the poverty of her Son,*

*Relinquishing His consciousness of His Divinity*

*... To companion us,*

*... To save us.*

*Within herself, Mary senses  
“All things coming together in Love”<sup>2</sup>  
In the Eternal Kiss of her Spouse, Abba  
... A Spirit-Kiss exhilarating her spirit !  
Her whole being is suffused with Abba’s luminous loveliness*

*And, following conception,  
Peace Eternal  
Makes a home in her,  
Imparting to her faith,  
A unique sense of ‘ God Within’...*

*The Memory of That Moment  
Is anchored in her deepest spirit :  
Her wombed God being its anchor !  
She who is to cause God to grow humanly, treasures in her heart*

*That “Yes”  
Wherein –  
Heaven makes love to earth !  
Eternity enters time !  
The Infinite One becomes a human cell !  
The All Powerful One becomes uniquely helpless !  
Wherein – in a uniquely personal way  
... For Mary herself ...*

*The Creator is sheltered by me – His creature !  
The Eternal One chooses me – as His Bride !  
The Immortal One is born of me – His lowly Mother !*

*And, most especially,  
GOD MAKES LOVE – TO ME !*

*The Memory of That Moment*

*... Of that "little while" <sup>3</sup>*

*When her "fiat" opened a window into Eternity ...*

*Was of the Three living Their Life of Love within :*

*–Of the Moment, when her Yahweh-Spouse of earlier years,*

*Now exults as "Abba"... in both being her Divine Bridegroom,*

*And in the Glory of Fathering a human Son with her !*

*– Of the Moment, when her Beloved Son's farewelling of His Divine Consciousness,*

*BECOMES His welcome to His humanity, in the beautiful words,*

*"God, here I am, I come to do Your will" <sup>4</sup>*

*... In consciousness terms 'LOSING' a Divine Father,*

*And 'GAINING' a human Mother*

*... Such that, His Mother's ever growing consciousness of His Divinity,*

*Enwombs His non-consciousness of IT !*

*– Of the Moment, when the Creative Spirit of Conception enables Abba's Love for Mary,*

*To ENFRUIT itself as the Gift of His Son's Divinity,*

*Within the ready soil of our humanity.*

*Yet ... whatever the intensity of Mary's Memory,*

*It, again, fades ...*



*Mary slowly realizes, in prayerful contemplation ...*  
*The Immensity ! The Depthless Intimacy ! The Wonder !*  
*Of Abba's relationship to her*  
*–As GOD ! Bridegroom ! And Co-parent !*  
*How unbelievably humble*  
*Mary continued to become ...*  
*Yet, Mary's continuing thanks to Abba*  
*Is but a reflection*  
*Of Abba's Eternal boundless gratitude to Mary*  
*... For her "Fiat".*

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1 Poem 735, Part 2 of a Trilogy (Poem 734 – Poem 736);

Six Day Retreat, Yamba, June 2006, Day 4.

2 Cf Rom 8:28 3 Jn 16:16 4 Heb 10:7.

## The Unfolding of 'Here I Am' <sup>1</sup>

(Part 3 of a TRIOLGY)

Mary,

In her ...

"HERE I AM: Your handmaid, O Adonai  
– LET YOUR WORD BE DONE TO ME"... <sup>2</sup>

Was NOT to know, THEN :

... Of her Co-parent Abba's own fond words

To Their Beloved Child,

Beginning His human life in THAT Moment –

"YOU ARE MY SON !

TODAY I HAVE BECOME YOUR FATHER !" <sup>3</sup>

... Nor, of Abba's beautifully simple introduction,

"THIS IS YOUR MOTHER" <sup>4</sup>

... Nor, of her Beloved Child's response to Abba,

"HERE I AM. I COME TO DO YOUR WILL". <sup>5</sup>

How could she know,

That, in THAT Moment,

Her marvellously OPEN SPIRIT

Was being TWINNED

To her Son's,

In the initial

"HERE I AM ..."

Of them both

... One in body One is spirit ?

Yet,  
A little over three decades later  
– On Calvary  
At the foot of His Cross, her Cross, our cross –  
Mary was to hear  
Both their pledges,  
FULLY realized  
In a move profoundly Mysterious way!  
It is in THAT “HOUR”, as John puts it <sup>6</sup>  
–Indeed, on the cusp of Jesus’ life, and His entry into death for us –  
That Jesus re-pledges His “Here I am”...  
In His “Abba, into Your hands, I entrust my spirit”, <sup>7</sup>  
As faithfully, Mary re-pledges her own “Here I am”,  
As she joins her Beloved Son  
In CO-SACRIFICING HIS LIFE TO ABBA.  
  
For Mary, too, it meant death  
... A death to her old way of mothering Jesus  
–As NOW, established anew as Mother, by Jesus Himself, as our Mother <sup>8</sup>  
... Mary accepted, in the most co-sacrificial way,  
The millions of us who were to claim her as Mother!  
These are the same millions  
Who were to be ADOPTED and CLAIMED by Jesus  
– In His “altogether NEW PERSON” – <sup>9</sup>  
As Abba drew His, and our, ASCENDANT HUMANITY  
To Himself!

*Thus, on the other face of that same "HOUR" – on Easter dawn,*

*Abba with Mary*

*– Once sad parents together, on Calvary –*

*Are now exultant with parental joy !*

*Easter's Mary deeply resonates with Abba's repeated words ...*

*"You are My Son !*

*Today, I have become Your Father !"* <sup>10</sup>

*Mary gives birth with Abba,*

*To the Son of Joy*

*In whom the Promise, made to her by Gabriel at Nazareth,* <sup>11</sup>

*Is now BEING*

*Fully, Gloriously, and Eternally realized !*

*Wondrously, the one Son, enwombed within her love,*

*Has now become MANY !*

*... Children of a delighting Father and joyous Mother !*

*... Myriad brothers and sisters of their Ascended Son !*

*... His galaxy of kin !*

*More wondrously still,*

*Abba and Mary together delight with their Risen and Ascended Son*

*– As the NEW CREATION of ABBA'S LOVE !*

*– As the RADIANT HEART of our NEW HUMANITY !*

*– As the PERSONAL SOURCE of the PASCHAL SPIRIT !*

*– As the GLORIOUS FOCUS for a REGENERATED UNIVERSE !*

*– As the now HUMAN SON of a DIVINE FELLOWSHIP !*

*– As the BELOVED FOOT-WASHER of the poor and lowly !*

*– And as the PASCHAL BODY AND BLOOD,*

*Nourishing "the poor in spirit" !* <sup>12</sup>

*This latter especially delights Mary  
... For, as one "poor in spirit"  
She had once nourished Jesus' infant body,  
Now she, in turn, is nourished  
By the BODY and BLOOD of HER CHILD !*

*Finally, in the quiet of His Paschal Peace, Mary ponders how ...  
As once, she had prompted His "Here I am",  
In HIS RECEIVING flesh, of her,  
FROM our world ...  
NOW, she rejoices with His Paschal "Here I am",  
– In His self-sacrifice, and glorification –  
In HIS GIVING His Paschal Flesh,  
FOR our world !*

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1 Poem 736, Part 3 of a Trilogy (Poem 734 to Poem 736).

Six Day Retreat, Yamba, June 2006, Day 4.

2 Cf Lk 1:38 3 Heb 1:5 4 Cf Jn 19:27 5 Heb 10:7 6 Cf Jn 17:1 7 Lk 23:46 8 Jn 19:27 9 Gal 6:15 (J.B.)

10 Heb 1:5 11 Lk 1:32,33 12 Mt 5:3

## Immersed in the Life of Abba's People <sup>1</sup>

(A TRILOGY – PART 1)

*Jesus, in his early boyhood,  
Fell in love with Yabweb  
... As he IMITATED  
The deep and loving feelings  
That his Mother always showed for her 'Abba-Yabweb'.  
His heart warmed  
Every time he listened to her, talking to him ...  
"Your God-Daddy, Jesus,  
Is a Daddy so giving , so loving, and so close to you  
... He's like the BREATHING IN OF YOUR BREATH,  
And a Daddy so beautiful, so open, and so peaceful  
... He's like the BREATHING OUT OF YOUR BREATH;  
And His Breath feels like a Kiss  
Full of light,  
Warming you heart."*

*Jesus asked her again and again –  
"Tell me again about our God-Daddy !"  
Within a few years, Jesus had shortened  
"God-Daddy" to "Daddy" ... that is "Abba".*

*By 12 year old, Jesus was so in love,  
That he was fondly talking about "My Abba"*

*– "Surely you know I need to be  
In my Abba's house?"<sup>2</sup>*

*Jesus loved Abba for fathering him*

*" – Like Joseph, but better –  
Full of love, and really close".*

*Jesus gave his life over to Abba,  
Gave himself, heart and soul*

*"... No holding back".*

*Then, as year followed year, in the Galilean hills of his youth,*

*He took Abba's PEOPLE to his heart.*

*In the synagogue of Nazareth,*

*In the stirring chants and soulful cadences of Sabbath rituals,*

*He felt one with his Chosen People's Covenanted history*

*– Singing out, not only his own teenage feelings,*

*But his People's feelings – their pains, their heart-songs.*

*As he matured, he felt ever more attuned to their spirit.*

*At times, his young adult heart was weighed down*

*By the cumulative starkness of their plight*

*– The social inequalities, their lack of direction, their 'lostness'!*

*Still, Jesus felt that within himself, Abba carried the burden with him ;*

*And Jesus' trust in Abba swelled constantly ...*

*As Abba accompanied the deeper out pouring of his compassion.*

*Jesus has a loving, lovable spirit  
And a sensitive, responsive heart.  
Because of this, he intuitively knew that SIN  
Was at the heart of his People's troubles.  
He so longed to share with them –  
The Covenanted 'besed' ... loving-kindness, he experienced from Abba.  
Moreover, Jesus's own burgeoning faith, and deep confidence in Abba  
Moved his young adult heart to care for Abba's People AS HIS OWN ...  
With that intimate LOVE with which Abba so tenderly wrapped Jesus' own spirit !  
Indeed, Jesus felt driven, by the Spirit of the Prophets,  
To COMMUNICATE that the beautiful sense of aliveness he felt in Abba,  
Was surely available to each and all of Abba's Chosen People  
... And more readily so, to the open-hearted and humble.*

*By his mid to late twenties,  
Jesus' profound sense of IDENTIFICATION with Abba's People  
Began to sadden and physically pain him :  
His own responses seemed LIMITED to so few !  
A powerful movement, within his spirit, TO PUBLICLY WITNESS  
To Abba's fiery desire to DEEPLY CHANGE ALL HEARTS  
Took hold of Jesus !  
He was determined to proclaim Abba's own yearning  
–To GATHER all those with changed-hearts  
Into some sort of KINSHIP !  
A KINSHIP of the lowly, and poor in spirit,  
A KINSHIP of God-seeking hearts !*



*So it was, guided by the Spirit of Prayerfulness*  
*... The Breathing IN and Breathing OUT*  
*Of his LIFE-WITHIN-ABBA ...*  
*Jesus entered the Jordan's waters*  
*–To clearly signal, through his BAPTISM, by John, his deep desire :*  
*... To be IMMERSED in the companionship*  
*Of the lowly and of the poor in spirit.*  
*... To be IMMERSED in their heart-song, and heart-ache,*  
*So that, TOGETHER, they gather all God-seeing hearts*  
*Into KINSHIP with Abba !*

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1 Poem 737, Part 1 of a Trilogy (Poem 737 to Poem 739).

Six Day Retreat, Yamba, June 2006, Day 5.

2 Lk 2:49.

## Deluged by Abba's Love <sup>1</sup>

(A TRILOGY – PART 2)

*Jesus' desire to commit himself, totally, to the poor and lowly*

*– To IDENTIFY with Abba's exploited People –*

*Was to change him radically.*

*His plunging wholly into the heart of their condition*

*– Signified, in his CHOICE TO BE BAPTIZED –*

*Was soon to see him actually IMMERSED in their communal and personal struggles*

*To regain and re-assert THEIR HUMAN DIGNITY.*

*Thus, Jesus joined them, Abba-Yahweh's chosen ones,*

*In re-claiming, and thereby elevating, their humanity*

*– Beginning with a complete CHANGE OF HEART !*

*What astounded Jesus, was Abba's own striking INITIATIVE in his own BAPTISM.*

*Jesus was wondrously moved by its explicit and miraculous character.*

*He was stunned by Abba's*

*Delight in him*

*As "My ... Beloved ... Son", <sup>2</sup>*

*And, equally, by Abba's affirmation,*

*"My favour RESTS ON YOU !" <sup>3</sup>*

*This public sunburst of Abba's love*

*Was simply overwhelming !*

*Jesus felt DIVINELY POSSESSED !*

*His being IMMERSED in the water of the Jordan*

*Gave Him the sense of being utterly encompassed by Abba's Presence !*

*Being proclaimed as “GOD’S BELOVED SON”,  
Changed His life forever  
... Transcending irrevocably, His earlier graced feelings  
Of being FATHERED by Abba, His God !*

*To be thus PERSONALLY ENFOLDED BY GOD, in the sight of His People,  
Obviously proclaimed Abba’s empowering approved of His COMMITMENT TO THE POOR  
Clearly, – now, transforming it into Abba’s MISSION for Him !  
In standing up, head bowed,  
Under the sun of God’s Glory,  
Jesus was overcome with love  
For this Most Loving of all Fathers !*

*Moreover, Jesus keenly sensed  
That these glorious affirmations  
Resonated with the very heart of Isaiah’s “Suffering Servant” texts.  
His Abba was clearly reminding Him  
That painful adjustments always accompany “changing of hearts”  
... That labour pains always precede the birth of new hearts !*

*Also, as Jesus “came up out of the water”... <sup>4</sup>  
The image of the emergence of Abba’s People from the Red Sea  
Was given Him by the Spirit ... !  
–How their PASSOVER into freedom had been marked by dislocation and confusion,  
Revealing again, how a price needed to be paid for freedom of hearts !*

*Then, as the water dried on Jesus,  
—In His ‘exodus’ from the Jordan —  
Jesus sensed, in John’s hailing Him, as ‘the Passover Lamb,’* <sup>5</sup>

*That His DESTINY*

*Lay, perhaps, in His being SACRIFICED FOR HIS PEOPLE ?*

*As Jesus stood on the river bank, facing the Jordan,*

*— Awe’d by the shaft of sunlight* <sup>6</sup>

*Brightly illuminating the area where He now stood —*

*His heart was near bursting with the deepest thankfulness.*

*As His gaze lingered on the scintillating surfaces lit by the sunshaft,*

*He now contemplated with the deepest love,*

*The Presence of the Spirit-Dove, hovering over His head* <sup>7</sup>

*... Perhaps signalling, quietly, the inception*

*Of the era of a New Creation ?*

*Jesus’ mind now filled with the light of the new realization*

*That the Spirit-Dove was Abba’s OWN Spirit :*

*... A Spirit engendering the fondest filial love !*

*... A Spirit engendering COMMUNION between Abba and Himself !*

*... A Spirit both of awe and heart-warming intimacy !*

*Truly He felt this Spirit now welling up WITHIN HIS VERY BEING,*

*Was at once — the Spirit of Israel’s Passover into freedom, and His very own !*

*Yet, also, this Spirit of the Suffering Servant ... THEN and NOW ...*

*Was calling Him to sacrifice Himself for His wayward people.*

*But, above all, this Spirit  
Suffusing His whole being,  
Was the Spirit of Sonship  
... The Spirit who, from that Wondrous Moment onwards,  
Allowed Him to focus the intensity  
Of His Divinely-human love,  
On Abba,  
... And, to relate to all humanity, WITHIN THAT EXPERIENCE.*

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1 Poem 738, Part 2 of a Trilogy (Poem 737 to Poem 739).

Six Day Retreat, Yamba, June 2006, Day 5.

2 Mt 3:17 3 IBID 4 Mt 3:16 5 Cf Jn 1:29 6 Mk 1:10 & Lk 3:21 7 Jn 1:32

## Embodying His People's Yearnings <sup>1</sup>

(A TRILOGY – PART 3).

*Following Abba's wondrously loving affirmation  
Of the baptized Jesus, as His "Beloved Son",  
And as "the Chosen One" to carry out His Fatherly Dream <sup>2</sup>  
To uplift His wayward People ...  
And following the Spirit of Divine Unity  
Settling upon Jesus' humble presence ...  
This same Spirit, most paradoxically,  
Does not lead Jesus into the welcoming presence of a hopeful people,  
But "draws Jesus into the wilderness,  
there to be tempted by a satanic presence"! <sup>3</sup>*

*Here, Abba deeply accompanies His Beloved  
In His human resolve  
– As the exemplar of Abba's GOOD NEWS to His People –  
To focus ...  
Not on His own personal needs,  
But on the PLIGHT of Abba's People ;  
Not on His own power, or Sonship prerogatives,  
But on EMPOWERING His People  
To a CHANGE OF HEART ;  
Not on an enticing alliance with the focus of evil  
... To gain a world-wide following of adoring fans ...  
But to centre all on Abba's choices for His mission.*

*Emerging from the desert ... His mission aflame in His heart ...*

*Jesus determined, like the Suffering Servant, to FULLY IDENTIFY –*

*With the lowly, with the pure in heart, with the poor in spirit,*

*With the gentle, with those mourning, with those persecuted for right,*

*And with all God-seeking hearts .*

*The Spirit energized Him, increasingly –*

*... To give public voice to the muffled cries and stifled pleas of His People,*

*... To thirst, with their thirst, for Abba's empowerment,*

*... To angrily appeal to those who multiply the load, to un-burden His People,*

*... But above all, to dance the dance of Abba's forgiveness and healing !*

*This choice-of-identification CHANGED Jesus.*

*As Jesus more and more CARRIED His People's hopes and anxiety,*

*He felt Himself being re-formed ...*

*Becoming hope for them !*

*Becoming com-passion for them !*

*Becoming a praying heart for them !*

*In so doing, Jesus endeared Himself to them,*

*Because the humblest of them ...*

*Sensed He was the one, "closest to Abba's heart".<sup>4</sup>*

*Those, with open spirits,*

*Could see that Abba was the CENTRE of Jesus's life :*

*He so IDENTIFIED with Abba,*

*That He was able to say*

*"Whoever comes to me comes to the Father"<sup>5</sup>*

*... "Abba and I are one".<sup>6</sup>*

*Alive with Abba's Spirit,  
Jesus became deeply able –  
To love those hostile to Him and to His People,  
To do good to those who hated and maligned them,  
To pray for those who harassed and laid traps for them,  
To bless those who mistreated any of His little ones, or Himself<sup>7</sup>  
... Even forgiving those who directly attacked Him.*

*It was but a short step for Jesus  
To SUBSTITUTE Himself for anyone targeted in these ways  
... By any, with evil in their hearts  
That is, by any or all of us  
– So that ... all might turn to Abba,  
To the God who changes hearts !  
To the God, so EXCESSIVE in His love,  
That He keeps on loving, no matter what !*

*Thus Jesus wanted, within Himself !  
To truly EMBODY His people's hopes,  
To EMBODY their whole reality –  
The misery and magnificence of their lives !  
Above all, to EMBODY FORGIVENESS for them  
... Abba' forgiveness.*



*He wanted to be their conduit,*

*FROM Abba, and TO Abba*

*– To be the LIFE-FORCE*

*Flowing from Abba, animating His People !*

*In effect, Jesus yearned to become*

*Both the EMBODIMENT and LIFE BLOOD*

*Of His People's relationship to Abba ...*

*Simply, to BE their EUCHARIST to Abba !*

*To be such a person*

*–To thwart the world's evil intent of maintaining its captive grip on His People–*

*Jesus KNEW*

*His very PERSON had to become a holocaust, in their stead :*

*His BODY needed to be broken for them,*

*His BLOOD needed to be totally spent for them*

*–So that, together, THEY IN Him, could become*

*A freed, uplifted People*

*Swept up by the Spirit of Adoption*

*Into the HEART OF ABBA !*

*Come Lord Jesus, live in us !*

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

*In the Spirit of Passover*

*... BE Abba's love for us !*

*... BE our love for Abba !*

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1 Poem 739, Part 3 of a trilogy (Poem 737 to Poem 739).

Six Day Retreat, Yamba, June 2006, Day 5.

2 Jn 1:34 3 Mk 1 :12,13 4 Jn 1:18 5 Cf Jn 14:6,7 6 Jn 10:30 7 Cf Lk 6:27,28

# Folio Thirty-Eight

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# Folio Thirty-Eight

## *Poems 740-759*

- 740 The Love that Raises Christ
- 741 The Trinity – Source of All Unity
- 742 Luminous Loveliness
- 743 Hearts Tuned to Your Heart
- 744 Giving Our Self Away
- 745 Waiting Attentively on Abba
- 746 Devotedness to Abba
- 747 One of a Kind With Jesus
- 748 Faith the Bud : Love the Fruit
- 749 Courage, Growing Out of Love
- 750 The Eternal Easter Generation
- 751 The Annunciation
- 752 The Visitation
- 753 The Birth of Jesus
- 754 The Presentation of Jesus
- 755 Finding Jesus in the Temple
- 756 Jesus' Baptism
- 757 The Wedding at Cana
- 758 Jesus' Proclaiming the Kingdom
- 759 Jesus' Transfiguration

## The Love That Raises Christ <sup>1</sup>

*The Mystery of the Love-that-raises-Christ*

*... And of us ALIVE IN CHRIST ...*

*Overwhelmed Paul !*

*The Spirit's Vivifying Presence*

*Empowering the cosmos,*

*Empowers Paul in his weakness,*

*As it empowers all of us*

*In our Exodus*

*From sin to Eternal Life IN Christ !*

*In the same way.*

*IN the Incarnate Word, now Risen and Ascended,*

*The power of the Good News*

*Illuminating all Creation*

*Cannot be CONFINED !*

*So too, Christ's Paschal Humanity*

*Proclaims a destiny*

*That cannot be contained ... that is boundless !*

*This boundless Paschal Christ,  
Dawning within Paul's heart,  
In centering all hearts, OPEN TO ABBA,  
Centres the cosmos as well !  
If our spirits are not OVERWHELMED, like Paul's,  
We are people to be pitied,  
People, unmoved by grace,  
People IN NEED of the Love-that-raises-Christ !*

## The Trinity – Source of All Unity <sup>1</sup>

*It is Christ Ascended  
Who gives us the Holy Spirit <sup>2</sup>  
As “OUR FREEDOM” <sup>3</sup>  
– Whereby we exercise choice, freely,  
Within His own Ascended Body, the Church !*

*Thus, this Spirit unites us, from WITHIN,  
From within ourselves ... as Church.*

*This Paschal Spirit of Union  
Wholly, wondrously, animates UNITY  
– From within that Kiss  
Between Abba and Jesus Ascended,  
That seals Their union !*

*This Kiss, within the Trinity  
–An Eternal Kiss –  
Is the source of all  
... That UNIFIES the whole of Creation  
And, most gloriously,  
... That unifies all PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS,  
Those between God, angels and humanity  
– All, ‘located’  
Within the Person, of Jesus Ascended !*

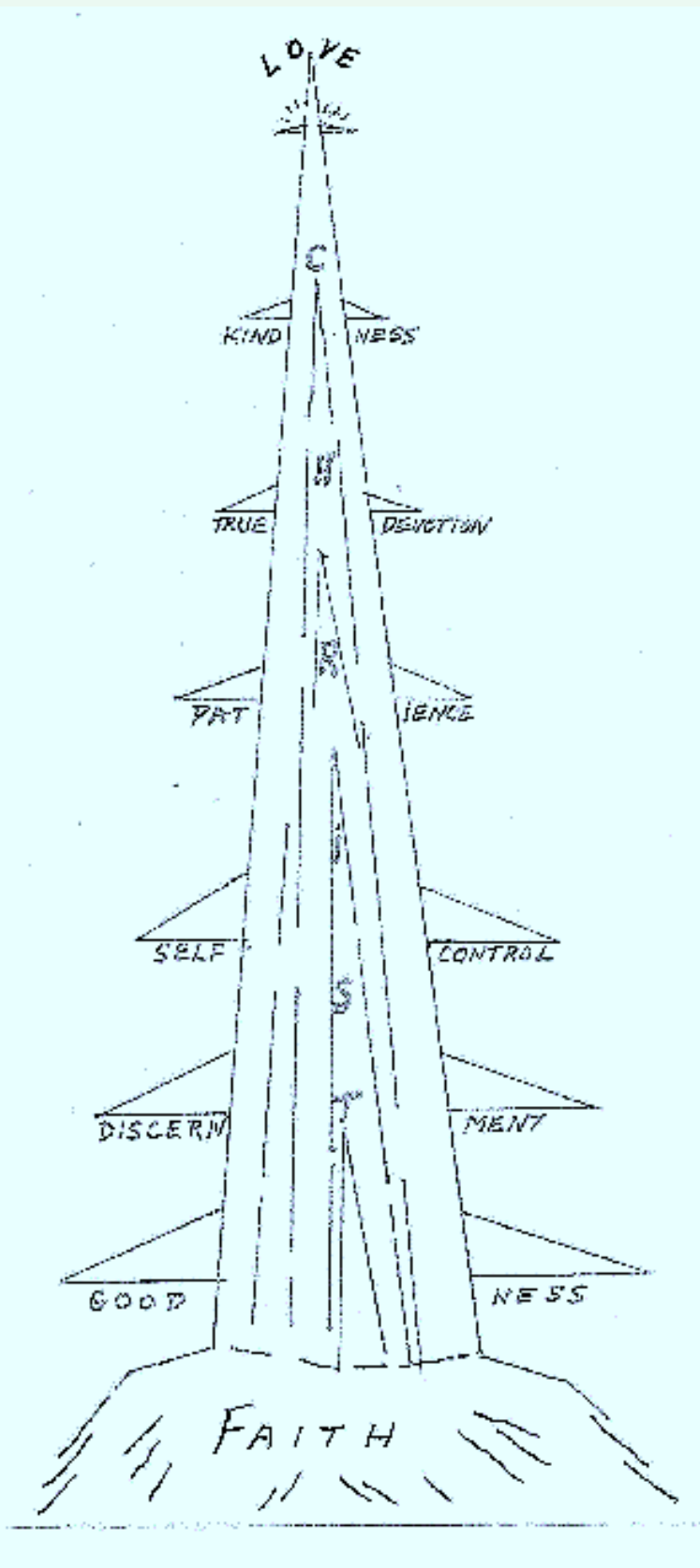
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<sup>1</sup> Poem 741, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, July 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Cf Acts 2:33    <sup>3</sup> 1 Cor 1:31

## Diagram for Poems 742 to 748

(Read: from bottom, up)



7. “and to this kindness, add LOVE.” v.7

*See poem 748*

6. “add KINDNESS TO OTHERS to your devotion.” v.7

*See poem 747*

5. “Add TRUE DEVOTION to your patience.” v.6

*See poem 746*

4. “Add PATIENCE to your self-control.” v.6

*See poem 745*

3. “Add SELF-CONTROL to your discernment.” V.6

*See poem 744*

2. “Add DISCERNMENT to your goodness.” v.5 (N.A.B.)

*See poem 743*

1. “Add GOODNESS to the faith you have.” v.5

*See poem 742*

**2 Peter 1:5-7 (J.B.)**

## Luminous Loveliness <sup>1</sup>

THEME : *“But to be able to attain this (a share of the Divine Nature), you will have to do your utmost yourselves – adding GOODNESS to the FAITH you have.” 2Pet 1:5 (See Diagram)*

*To us who trust  
In the Sun arising in our hearts-depths,  
It is Your Loveliness, Abba  
– Diffusing all reality –  
That draws us  
... Our very hearts ...  
To You !*

*Your Goodness – Your Luminous Loveliness,  
Begets  
Loveliness in us,  
Faithfully forming the features  
Of Jesus  
In us.  
Such Loveliness as Yours  
Sets our faith ALIGHT  
... Luminescing  
Our open, expectant faces  
Into the beautiful Face of Jesus  
– Alive with love for You !*



*As we thirstily breathe His Paschal Spirit in,  
Our minds are re-newed, re-formed  
... Re-shaped into Christ's  
So that our re-born spirits  
Breathe this Spirit forth  
Into other expectant hearts  
... An expectant minority ... in an indifferent or hostile world.*

*Abba, You, have transformed  
The imitators of Your Beloved,  
Making them NEW CREATURES in Christ !  
Renew us,  
So that our lives proclaim anew –  
Your VOICE of Love,  
And Your Paschal GOODNESS  
That “makes our hearts burn within us”<sup>2</sup>  
... Thereby gaining us a new, Easter innocence !  
Thus –  
May we, like them, have eyes only for You,  
O Luminous Loveliness !  
May every word we utter, be heard as Your Beloved's !  
May we live in this world, as Your New Creation  
– In Christ  
... Fountain of all human goodness !*

---

1 Poem 742, 4 Week Reflection on 2Pet 1:5-7 – 6 related poems follow.

Clayfield Community, Jul 2006, Week 1.

2 Lk 24:32

## Heart, Tuned to Your Heart <sup>1</sup>

THEME : "To your goodness, add discernment." 2Pet 1:5 N.A.B. (See Diagram)

*Being loved, we become lovely  
In You, O Luminous Loveliness !  
We wait upon Your every glance ...  
Attentive to Your every feeling ...  
Responsive to Your Spirit's every movement ...  
We are sensitive to every in-spiration  
That Your Spirit evokes through Your written Word ;  
Sensitive too, to Your Church's guiding wisdom.  
Yes, to love You is to have a discerning heart  
—A HEART TUNED TO YOUR HEART.  
Indeed, Your Beloved SHOWS US with Easter clarity,  
How to wed the love of God  
To the love of a human being  
... Bringing both into harmony, in His own Person.*

*Indeed, in His own Person, God becomes our neighbour,  
And for us, BEING GATHERED TOGETHER in Christ,  
Means union with our neighbour, and thus union with God !  
Entrusting ourselves to this Nearest Neighbour, Christ,  
We DISCERN and come to experience You, Abba  
... As only Jesus does : as Your loved Child.  
Thus we discern, and experience You — as Father  
... Your Fatherly love gifting us with a New Vision :  
We come to SEE OURSELVES as Your living Image  
—As Your Beloved !*

## Giving Our Self Away <sup>1</sup>

THEME : *“To discernment, add self-control.” 2 Pet 1:6 (See Diagram).*

*Love’s Word, once discerned,  
Is enfleshed in reality :  
Love invites us, draw us, leads us  
To embody the Divine Dream for us,  
Through a love-that-enables ... in Christ.*

*Yet our fallen human nature has a tendency, always,  
To substitute its SELF for the Dream  
... To draw the focus constantly, from Love,  
Onto the SELF.*

*The Paschal Jesus counters, with His call for us ...  
To daily shoulder the SELF, AS CROSS.  
In heartfelt response, OUR-way-to-Calvary, MOVES US –  
From self-moderation ...  
To self-restraint,  
To self-denial,  
To self-forgetfulness,  
To self-surrender,  
To self-sacrifice*

*... Modelling our graced journey, on Jesus’ own journey of the Cross.*

*Thus, to be re-created in Jesus's image,  
All the while, being empowered by grace,  
Is to choose TO GIVE OUR SELF AWAY:  
"This is my body, given up for you".<sup>2</sup>*

*Self-"control" in Christ,  
Abandons 'the golden mean'  
– For a radical abandonment of the self!  
And this is not, for an elite, but for ALL  
–All followers of Jesus's Way  
... From eight year olds to eighty year olds !*

*All begin this journey with the Baptist  
... "He shall increase, I shall decrease",<sup>3</sup>  
And end with Jesus' own  
Self-holocaust  
... Become self-consecration,  
"Into Your hands, I entrust my spirit !" <sup>4</sup>*

---

1 Poem 744, 4 Week Reflection on 2 Pet 1:5-7 – 4 related poems follow.

Clayfield Community, July 2006, Week 2.

2 Lk 22:19 3 Jn 3:30 4 Lk 23:46 (N.R.S.V.)

## Waiting Attentively on Abba <sup>1</sup>

THEME : “To self-control, and patience.” 2 Pet 1:6 (See Diagram).

*For a Christian to be patient,  
Is always to be perseveringly attentive TO SOMEONE  
... Especially, to be FAITHFUL TO ABBA.  
Such faithfulness is easy, such loyalty a delight,  
When we are ...  
Bathed in Abba's love,  
Illumined with the kindness of Jesus, our brother-God,  
And caressed with the warmth of Loyce's intimacy. <sup>2</sup>  
It is always and only IN the Beloved, that we are faithful,  
And such patience brings a Divine Child's reward !  
Though we are the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters,  
We are banqueted, honoured and embraced  
With overflowing Fatherly affection :  
Princes and Princesses of a royal-hearted Abba,  
Lavishing us with love !*

*Moreover, the suffering that accompanies such faithfulness  
Is, in truth, the pain of been born within Love,  
And, even, of giving birth to love.  
The Spirit of Life-giving  
Who PATIENTLY moulded Jesus in Mary's womb,  
Constantly gives His imitators new birth ...  
Perseveringly forming us, AS KIN to Christ.  
Ours it is, only to be grateful and gracious for such Divine generosity.*

*Thus, with the patient trust of that fondest of sons,*

*We wait attentively on Abba*

*Whom we KNOW*

*– With a favoured Child’s knowing –*

*Will dotingly fulfil our every desire*

*... Gathering us all, within the arms of His care.*

*Thus, Abba’s gift of patience to us, in the Spirit,*

*Is the gift of deep acceptance*

*Of the Divine rhythms*

*... The gift of ever-expectant hope and thankfulness.*

*Such patience is always being attentive to the Spirit who is Gift,*

*The One who always waits-with-us,*

*... Opening our hearts*

*To Christ’s birth within,*

*And to Abba’s Fatherly delight !*

*This gift of patience*

*ULTIMATELY draws us into Their Family Fellowship*

*... To Christ’s host of new brothers and sisters*

*Ever involved in cycles of RE-BIRTH !*

---

1 Poem 745, 4 Week Reflection on 2 Pet 1:5-7 – 3 related poems follow.

Clayfield Community, July 2006, Week 3.

2 “Loyce” is my familiar term for the Holy Spirit – in speaking TO the Spirit, in particular.

It is drawn from the Paschal gifts of LOVE, JOY, and PEACE.

## Devotedness to Abba <sup>1</sup>

THEME : *“To patience, add true devotion.” 2Pet 1:5-7 (See Diagram)*

*Jesus, our Love*  
*... Companioning you*  
*–Paschally passing, AS Your Body,*  
*Through the veil of many dyings*  
*Into Easter’s SUNLIGHT –*  
*Continues now for us*  
*... Day unto day,*  
*... Grace opening to grace,*  
*... Presence revealing itself anew within Presence.*

*YOUR delight in Abba now becomes ours :*

*For NOW is always the time ...*

*For devotedness to Abba !*

*For faithfulness to Abba !*

*And for the family of Abba !*

*It is the time for growing together in You, Jesus :*

*... For fond commitment to Your Body, the Church*

*... And for fervour, like Yours, in sacrificing oneself for others.*

*Devotedness to You, Abba,  
In the time for ripening WITHIN :  
... For Your Beloved's Sun  
To draw forth autumnal sugars of grace,  
... The time to TASTE a mature faith's fruitfulness,  
... The time for steadfastness in joy,  
For abiding in peace.*

*Abba, it is the time for TREASURING Your friendship  
– “The pearl of great price”,<sup>2</sup>  
The time for heartfelt reverence  
For Your adorable Fellowship of Love.*

---

1 Poem 746, 4 Week Reflection on 2 Pet 1:5-7. 2 related poems follow.

Clayfield Community, July 2006, Week 3.

2 Mt 13:46.



## One of a Kind with Jesus <sup>1</sup>

THEME : *“To true devotion, add kindness to your fellow humans.” 2 Pet 1:7 (See Diagram)*

*In essence  
To be KIN to others  
Is to be KIND to them.  
Thus, it is not an innate sweetness of our nature,  
But BELONGINGNESS  
That gives birth to kindness :  
Those who somehow belong to us ...  
And to whom we somehow belong ...  
Draw forth from us, year upon year,  
Our heart’s good energies.  
To those NOT our own,  
We are usually detached,  
Even indifferent or distant,  
And sometimes, discriminatory or ostracizing !*

*Indeed KINDNESS is the life-blood  
Of all group solidarity,  
And superlatively so, in God’s Reality.  
HERE, for any “foreigner”, any outcast, any isolate ...  
Simply being one-of-a-kind with Jesus’ COMMON humanity,  
Or, transcendently, being a recipient of Jesus’ NEW Humanity,  
Bonds them in kinship – and thus kindness – to God  
... One by way of nature, the other by grace.*

*And God's bonding, God's kindness to us in Christ,*

*Is ETERNAL*

*... Never, by Him, to be treated UNKINDLY!*

*... Never, by Him, to be disowned!*

*... Never, in Him, to be un-familied!*

*—For, in Jesus, we are one-of-a-kind with God*

*... Through nature, and through grace!*

*And, most wondrously,*

*Being sistered or brothered to the Paschal Jesus through grace,*

*Binds us to ALL!*

*Thus, familied by God,*

*Universal kinship is ours ... even if,*

*Though all are saved, and within God's care,*

*Some are UNRECEPTIVE to God's offer, in Christ.*

*Indeed, there is no one "un-brotherable",*

*No one unable to be sistered!*

*No one, not ours to own!*

*No one excluded from Love's*

*Covenant of Kinship!*

*Kindness is on offer to all!*

*Such Covenanted kindness – HESED – is our birth right*  
*IN Jesus Ascended !*  
*Conjoined by this divine tenderness,*  
*Our life is TWINNED to our brother-God's !*  
*In Him, God is KIND to us ! <sup>2</sup>*  
*And we ... wondrously ... we can be KIND to God-in-Christ*  
*As to Family !*

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1 Poem 747, 4 Week Reflection on 2 Pet 1:5-7. One last related poem follows.

Clayfield Community, July 2006, Week 4.

2 'KIND' is means to convey the twin meaning of 'kin' and 'kind'.

## Faith the Bud : Love the Fruit <sup>1</sup>

THEME : *“And to kindness, add love”. 2 Pet 1:7 (See Diagram).*

*To be perfect in faith IS*

*... Not merely to know, but to love,*

*... Not just to yearn, but to gaze into Love’s eyes,*

*... Not simple to trust, but to enjoy Love’s caresses.*

*We love, by practising love :*

*Loves creates its own entry into the other,*

*Enticing the other to be receptive of itself.*

*Love gives itself away, sculpting the other into an openness*

*To sustain the giving of self, and the joy of the other.*

*Love thus flows from heart to heart ... to still other hearts,*

*Enlarging each heart, in turn, amplifying its readiness*

*To entrust itself, ever more, to Love.*

*Thus Love awakens in every heart,*

*The warming radiance ... of Love WITHIN*

*– A Love, given and received and en-beautied*

*In an Eternal Communion of hearts*

*... “Lover, Loved, Love”. <sup>2</sup>*

*Love is thus our first HOME :*

*Such that all our other homes or loves, are but holograms*

*Of the Fellowship of Intimacy experienced, deep in our spirits*

*“Anyone who makes their home in love,*

*Makes their home in God*

*And God makes a home in them”.<sup>3</sup>*

*Because all human love is of Love, Risen and Ascended,*

*Love carries within it, the experience of Eternity,*

*The guarantee of deathlessness,*

*The fountain of boundless life*

*–The “Promised Holy Spirit”.<sup>4</sup>*

*Paschal Love re-creates our being,*

*As we “are renewed by a spiritual revolution” :<sup>5</sup>*

*Such that we see the world anew, with Christ’s consciousness !*

*–All our relationships are transformed and re-vivified !*

*... As our humanity come alive with Love’s Beauty !*

*As Abba’s luminous loveliness dazzles our eyes of grace,*

*We surrender, in Christ Ascended, to His transcendent Love*

*Which re-fashions our spirit, into that of His Beloved*

*–Heaven’s Love, humanity’s glory !*

*While Heaven's Love opens thus to our earthen hearts,*

*Our earthen hearts are OPENED to Heaven's Love, through its gift of FAITH to us.*

*Faith's bud, under the sunlight of the Spirit, opens in a bloom of HOPE*

*... To set fruit as LOVE, to ripen into LOVE.*

*While Love is the banquet,*

*And faith initiates the feast,*

*And hope readies our earthen hearts,*

*We entrust ourselves, in Love,*

*To be open banquets to each other –*

*To sit down, together, with our God*

*... The God of Unending Fruitfulness.*

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1 Poem 748, 4 Week Reflection on 2 Pet 1:5-7.

Clayfield Community, July 2006, Week 4.

2 St Augustine 3 1Jn 4:16 4 Acts 2:33 5 Eph 4:23.

## Courage, Growing Out of Love <sup>1</sup>

*What drives courage to take a risk  
For the sake of goodness ...  
And to sustain it, through an emboldened stand ?*

*Simply LOVE :  
Love for someone special,  
Or for a valued group  
Or, most encompassingly of all,  
Love for humanity, and for the preservation of human dignity.*

*This form of courage, growing out of love,  
Is truly infectious  
–Embaldening others to risk their own futures,  
Even Their very lives  
For LOVE ... and for what it cherishes.  
Think of Jesus Christ,  
Our brother.*

## The Eternal Easter Generation <sup>1</sup>

*O Abba, look with loving-kindness  
On Your people of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
... Suffering so much at this time.  
Encompass them with Your tender compassion.  
For all those whom You long  
To tenderly, gently  
Draw to Yourself in Your Beloved ...  
Move them again  
To seek Your Face,  
To turn to You for forgiveness,  
And thus to live their lives  
Filled with faith,  
And with the fervour Your Spirit gives.*

*May my humble life  
Lived within Your Gaze  
– Lived only for Your People –  
Be alive with Your Transcendence,  
And Eternally celebrate Your Fellowship  
As the ever newly begotten generation, IN Your Beloved !  
Thus, may we all  
Newly rejoice in Your Fellowship,  
And together, be always forming  
That FIRST GENERATION, that NEW PEOPLE  
Who share the Risen and Ascended Jesus'  
New age of empowerment !*



*Thus – AS new creatures, new kin in CHRIST –*

*May we be beacons of hope,*

*Alive with Easter love,*

*Living in a new-creative-relationship*

*To You, Abba*

*– Eucharistic children, in the fond new embrace*

*Of Your Spirit ...*

*The Eternal Easter Generation !*

## The Annunciation <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 1, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)

*Jesus, You became ONE OF US  
Because of Abba's utterly wondrous love for us,  
And because of the humble 'fiat'  
Offered by Your Mother Mary,  
Who in begetting You  
–The Beloved whom Abba begets –  
Becomes pure receptivity to Abba's Spirit.  
This Spirit is the Spirit of Mothering  
... Lashed on Yourself  
... And held, in trust, for us.*

*Mary is the chosen partner of Abba  
... Of Love, who eternally parents You, Jesus.  
Indeed, in conceiving You, in the power of the Spirit, <sup>2</sup>  
Mary can be contemplated as an ICON of Your Father  
... Such that her motherhood is a personal SYMBOL of the Fatherhood of Abba.  
To our eyes, she expresses the TENDERNESS of Abba.*

*Jesus, because of Mary, You entered our world of creation  
... A world of good, of limitations, and evil.  
Truly through her, in You, the Divine is humanized ...  
Entering into the joy, pain, and darkness  
Of our human existence.  
In Mary's welcoming womb, the world holds  
Divine Reality and Divine Promise, WITHIN IT.*

*In Mary, the self-involvement of God in Creation*

*Is at its most personal*

*Within the confines of a human womb !*

*Dependent on the agreement of a teenage mother !*

*Mary is Creation at its most maternal.*

*Indeed, God loves us so wondrously,*

*As to give us, through her,*

*What is most intimately His own –*

*“This is My Beloved Son : listen to Him !”<sup>3</sup>*

# NOTE : This is the first of 20 poems on the Twenty Decades of the Rosary. Together, they form 20 reflections, for praying what I have called, The Together Rosary. For the 4 recurring prayers of the traditional rosary (excluding the Hail Holy Queen), I have created 4 quite shorter, more explicitly Trinitarian prayers. They are to be found in Poem 693, as A,B,C,D. In a few of the poems there are 1 or 2 phrases, drawn from the booklet Mary and the Creed, Anthony J. Kelly, 2004. All the poems otherwise are fully original, except for Poems 769 and Poems 770.

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1 Poem 751, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, August 2006. Week 1.

2 Lk1:35 3 Cf Mt 17:5.

## The Visitation <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 2, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)

Jesus,

From within Your Mother, 'God's bearer',

You enfold Your own herald, John

WITHIN THE MYSTERY

Of Abba's love for Your own humanity !

This frees John

FROM humanity's sinful inheritance,

So that he can FREELY

Re-nounce sin IN humanity

... Re-naming sin for what it truly is – un-Godlike choices !

In so doing, he prepared hearts for You –

Hearts ... to be like Mary's :

– In her yearning to give birth TO YOU

... As we are called to do, in others

– In her self-sacrificing love of Elizabeth

... Calling us to selflessness

–In her heartfelt outpouring, "My spirit glorifies Love" <sup>2</sup>

... Calling us to glorify our God of Love, with our lives !

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<sup>#</sup> See Note, Poem 751.

<sup>1</sup> Poem 752, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, August 2006, Week 1.

<sup>2</sup> Lk 1:46.

## The Birth of Jesus <sup>1</sup>

*(Poem 3, of 20 #)*

*Jesus,*  
*You were given to us, in Mary, Abba's Spouse,*  
*Who, in giving what Abba had given,*  
*GIVES IN THE WAY GOD GIVES :*  
*Boundlessly rich in generosity,*  
*Utterly poor in the giving,*  
*So that WE become*  
*Infinitely rich in the receiving*  
*... Becoming Family to You !*

*With the sweet simplicity, total dependency, and openness*  
*Of a baby,*  
*God's offer of Himself*  
*To us,*  
*Is so unthreatening,*  
*So appealing,*  
*As to melt any reservations.*  
*In so doing, ANY of us*  
*Can feel good*  
*In leaning down*  
*To lift the God-baby*  
*To our cheeks,*  
*Looking into the sparkling eyes of God*  
*... Letting Him capture our hearts !*

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# See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 752, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, August 2006, Week 2.

## The Presentation of Jesus <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 4, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)

*Jesus,*

*In the Temple, You are gently and humbly offered*

*– As the first-fruits of Abba’s love,*

*As the Promise of Goodwill to humanity,*

*As the realization of Mary’s “FIAT” –*

*Back to Abba Himself*

*... To and excited, expectant Father ...*

*By Mary and Joseph.*

*You are tenderly and lovingly accepted by Your Abba*

*In the persons and voices of Simeon and Anna –*

*And, even then, given a sense of MISSION by them*

*–To be a person*

*Of “Saving deeds ... a sign of contradiction ... a revealing light,*

*Honouring Israel” <sup>2</sup>*

*And, for Your Mother,*

*There is a sense of the price to be paid :*

*“Suffering, as piercing as a dagger,*

*Will penetrate your spirit”? <sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>#</sup> See Note, Poem 751.

<sup>1</sup> Poem 754, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, August 2006, Week 2.

<sup>2</sup> Lk 2:29-38 (N.A.B.) <sup>3</sup> Cf Lk 2:35.

## Finding Jesus in the Temple <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 5, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)

*Another visit to the Temple, another revelation :*

*Jesus,*

*Here, You take Your first excited public step*

*In implementing Your “Father’s work”. <sup>2</sup>*

*This first ‘public’ contemplation*

*Of Your Father’s scriptural legacy ...*

*This first courageous proclaiming*

*Of His Good News ...*

*Lovingly flows*

*From Your already deep sense*

*Of intimacy with Your Abba,*

*And from Your growing identification*

*– Through prayer –*

*As Abba’s Beloved !*

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<sup>#</sup> See Note, Poem 751.

<sup>1</sup> Poem 755, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, August 2006, Week 2.

<sup>2</sup> Lk 2:49.

## Jesus' Baptism <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 6, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)

Jesus,  
In experiencing the deepest intimacy with Abba  
In Your baptism,  
You are not only "His own" ... His hearts' desire, <sup>2</sup>  
But are IMMERSED TOTALLY IN HIM,  
Becoming ONE with a Father, who "favours" and delights in You <sup>3</sup>  
And for whom, You are "the Chosen One" <sup>4</sup>  
— FOR His People!  
Indeed, Abba's People become fully, Your People!  
And to seal this mutual bond,  
Abba's Spirit "descends" on You and "remains" with You, <sup>5</sup>  
So You become  
The One "who baptizes them WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT!" <sup>6</sup>

Saturated in Your Abba's Love ...  
You identify "completely with His work", <sup>7</sup>  
Choosing to identify with "THE POOR IN SPIRIT" <sup>8</sup>  
Abba's favourites, the ones in whom He delights.  
Thus, You embrace the blind, the lame, and lepers,  
And, those of the oppressed  
Who are alive with the spirit of DEPENDENCE  
... Truly knowing their NEED OF GOD.



*Jesus, thank You,  
For immersing Yourself in the RIVER of our lives :  
Your life flowing into ours,  
Inviting ours to flow into Yours  
– “You in Me, and I in you” – <sup>9</sup>  
... Carried along in the Spirit,  
“That stream leaping up, to provide eternal life”. <sup>10</sup>*

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# See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 756, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, August 2006, Week 3.

2 Lk 3:22 (I.B.) 3 Mk 1:11 4 Jn 1:24 5 Jn 1:32 6 Jn 1:33 7 Cf Jn 4:34 8 Mt 5:3 9 Jn 14:20 10 Jn 4:14 (N.A.B.)

## The Wedding at Cana <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 7, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)

*Jesus,*

*You begin Your adult public ministry*

*At this country wedding*

*... In fellowship with Mary*

*– Bride of Abba, co-virgin, and Mother.*

*Yours and hers are ‘wedded’ spirits,*

*Forged by the TWIN ‘fiats’ at Your conception :*

*... Yours, “Here I am ! I am coming ! ...*

*I love to do Your will, O God !” <sup>2</sup>*

*... And hers (FOR US), “Let it happen to me,*

*Just as You desire.” <sup>3</sup>*

*Jesus, You and Your Mother,*

*Are ‘wedded’ spirits at the outset ...*

*And still, ‘wedded’ in Your death.*

*Between these two occasions, You remind US*

*“Whoever does the will, of my Father, is my Mother ...” <sup>4</sup>*

*– That is, ‘belongs to My Family !’*

*Perhaps, this is why Mary, emboldened-as-kin,  
Effectively urges US, on Calvary  
– As she confidently did at Cana’s wedding –  
“Do whatever JESUS TELL YOU TO DO”<sup>5</sup>  
... As she co-offered YOUR SURRENDER “Into Your hands, I ENTRUST my spirit.”<sup>6</sup>  
In doing so, Mary was so conscious, of Your own filial faithfulness  
– “I only do what I see my Father doing” –<sup>7</sup>  
And by Your own Gethsemene ‘fiat’,  
“Not my will BUT YOURS BE DONE !”<sup>8</sup>*

*TWIN ‘fiats’ at Your conception and Your death :  
Two receptive spirits ... one willingness of heart !  
Our humanity – redeemed ! renewed ! uplifted !*

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# See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 757, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, August 2006, Week 3.

2 Combining Verses 6 and 8 of Ps 40 (J.B.) 3 Cf Lk 1:38 4 Mt 13:50 5 Jn 2:5 6 Lk 23:46 7 Jn 5:19 8 Lk 22:43.

## Jesus' Proclaiming the Kingdom <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 8, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)

*Jesus*

*It is YOURSELF whom You proclaim :*

*Abba's Good News*

*To our expectant hearts !*

*You, indeed, are the SACRAMENT of Good News*

*Whose enduring focus is to REVEAL*

*Abba's new Covenant of Love*

*–Yourself !*

*You indeed are the 'home' of all those who love-to-love Abba*

*... Or desire and yearn to love Him !*

*Even the blind of heart*

*Find in You –*

*New eyes to behold Love's Gaze ;*

*And those, sick in body and spirit ... find in You,*

*New healing, new life flowing from Your Ascended Person*

*... Flowing now – from US also,*

*'At home', in You !*

*So too, the depressed and anxious of spirit ... find IN You*

*A big-hearted brother*

*ETERNALLY embraced by a welcoming Father*

*... And join You, to become EN-SPIRITED and re-vivified*

*–By Abba's Gift of the Spirit !*

*O Jesus, make the ears of my heart  
Listen to You – the Good News !  
And make the tongue of my heart  
Murmur its love for You,  
Stilling my spirit  
... So tenderly  
That Your love becomes my own  
... As I become Good News – for others !*

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# See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 758, year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, August 2006, Week 4.

## Jesus' Transfiguration <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 9, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)

Jesus,  
You invite us into fellowship  
With Moses and Elijah,  
By drawing us into Your Ascended Reality  
... Therein, transcending time and space for us,  
Making ALL manner of encounters POSSIBLE in You !  
TOGETHER – You, Moses and Elijah,  
IMAGE FORTH a suggestion of the Triune Fellowship of Love.  
Thus, through You, God's Law and Prophecy are PERSONIFIED  
... Companioning us, yet subsumed into YOURSELF  
– As God's Covenant of Love, luminous with life !

O Glorious Jesus !  
Here, with you, on the Mountain of Encounter  
Forgiven, and gifted –  
We are transformed  
Into ADORING HEARTS  
... Gazing into the heart of God Revealed !

Divinely drawn into Your Wondrous Mystery  
... Awe'd, stunned, and humble,  
We are transformed  
Into HEARTS LONGING TO SERVE  
– Offering to pitch tents, to wash feet ...

*Overwhelmed with wonder,  
And gifted with the grace of surrender,  
We are transformed  
Into SELF-SACRIFICIAL HEARTS –  
Yearning to give all,  
Graced to receive all,  
Again, to give all ...  
O Fellowship Divine !*

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# See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 759, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, August 2006, Week 4.