

## 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 in 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.*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 725, Week 4, Easter to Pentecost Retreat, Clayfield, Brisbane, May 2006.

## 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 out 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 Companionship 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 RADIAN 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

## 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 !*

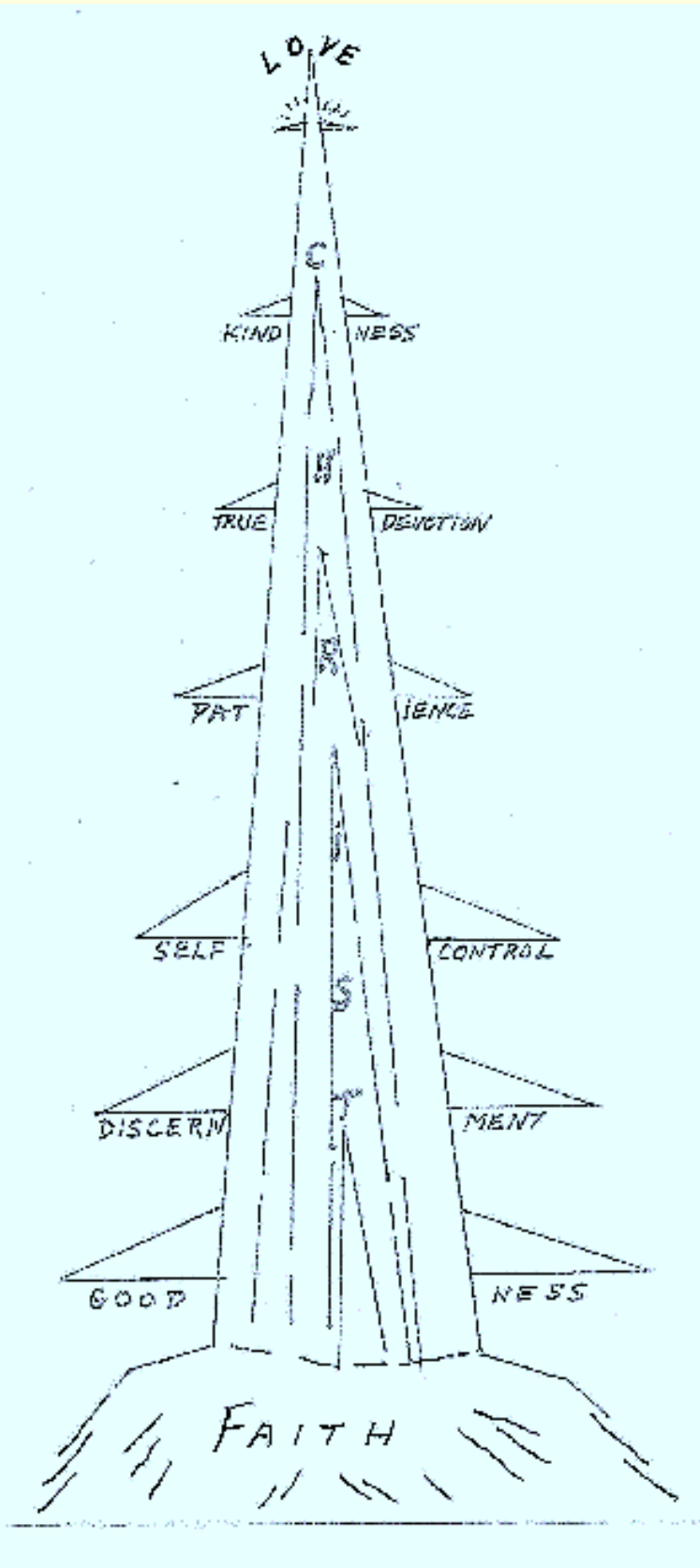
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<sup>1</sup> Poem 741, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, July 2006.

<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 !*

---

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.*

---

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 !*

---

# 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 !*

---

# 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 !*

---

# See Note, Poem 751.

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

## Dawn of the Eucharist <sup>1</sup>

*(Poem 10, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)*

*Jesus,*

*OUR Beloved ... Our Eucharist ... ABBA'S own Beloved*

*Amongst us ! For us !*

*In You, we hunger, we thirst, ... for UNION with Abba.*

*Even the passing sense of Your Mystical Body's pain*

*– The passing distress of a parent,*

*The sudden anguish of an adolescent –*

*Has us clamouring to reach out to You,*

*To share Your healing power.*

*Your response to our pleas,*

*Is to flood our lives*

*With healing, nurture and growth :*

*BODYING nourishment to all,*

*Letting Your Own Precious, Glorified Blood*

*Course through the arteries of our lives*

*... Renewing us, re-uniting us,*

*Re-conforming us to Your likeness.*

*Our response to You , the Word, ALIVE, in the BODY of our Church*

*– To Your circulating BLOOD, re-affirming us, as KIN–*

*Is beyond words, beyond verbal thanks :*

*It is You, You Yourself Jesus !*

*The only one worthy to express our love to Abba !*

*The living expression of love itself !*

*Opening all our hearts to Abba ... in Yours !*

*In this Paschal 'hour' of our lives, we ARE*  
*– Co-crucified with You, surrendering all !*  
*– Raised up, and incorporated into You, the New Man !*  
*– Welcomed back home, IN You, within Abba's rapturous embrace !*  
*– En-Spirited into the Paschal Fellowship of Love ...*  
*– And empowered to lavish Their Spirit of Communion*  
*... Upon each brother, each sister,*  
*So that WE BECOME EUCHARIST, in You – for the world !*

---

# See Note, Poem 751.

## Jesus' Agony in the Garden <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 11, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)

Jesus,  
In this ancient olive grove,  
In IMMERSING Your radically open-hearted spirit  
In our humanity's ocean of sin  
– In all its overwhelming  
Horror, ugliness, stench, bitterness, revulsion and isolation –  
You experience, FOR US –  
The cruelty of pride,  
The false joy of spitefulness,  
The cold-heartedness of envy,  
The tortuousness of compulsions,  
The indifference of violence,  
The bitter stubbornness of revenge,  
And the ruthless meaninglessness of murder !

Still, Jesus,  
Even while the terror and primal shock of all this  
Expels Your very life-blood  
Through the pores of Your shuddering skin,  
You continue ... and continue ... to LOVE  
– Responding, in Your agony, with forgiveness  
To all the enemies of love,  
... From gross self-centeredness to communal rejection of love.

*Then, in the stark, bleak spirit-scape  
Of feeling abandoned by Your Beloved Abba,  
Your love AS SON resolves itself*

*Into blind trust ...*

*Into that deepest, most solitary, totally unknowing*

*SENSE OF DEPENDENCE*

*—Sheer, raw faith :*

*“Only what you want, Abba !”<sup>2</sup>*

---

# See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 761, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, September 2006, Week 1

2 Lk 22:43.

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

(Poem 12, of 20 #)

*Jesus,  
As the lash rips skin from Your chest and back  
– Embodying, in searing pain,  
The whole murderous war of flesh upon the spirit –  
You continue, in Your heart's abyss,  
To faithfully mirror  
Abba's limitlessly tender embrace of "all flesh".*

*While evil wreaks havoc externally,  
Lacerating Your quivering frame,  
Convulsing all Your muscles ...  
It also seeks to crush and VOID Your trust  
In the Love – that – lasts !  
Yet, these hellish waves of pain  
Only DEEPEN Your trust in Abba !*

---

# See Note, Poem 751.

## Jesus' Crowning with Thorns <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 13, of 20 #)

Jesus,

*As the sheer malevolence of Empire*

*– Mirroring our common human tendency to visit mindless violence*

*On anonymous, blameless victims –*

*Vengefully drives the thorns of spite or envy*

*Deep into Your skull,*

*You choose – FOR OUR SAKE – to submit*

*To evil's onslaught.*

*This onslaught of vicious inhumanity punctures first, Your body,*

*Then Your heart's emotions,*

*And then, tries to INVADE Your mind*

*–By mocking Your kingdom of love,*

*And trying to devalue Your kinship of love with us !*

*This submission to evil's impacts, only serves to highlight*

*Your earlier, sublimely humble, radical choice*

*To set aside the Divine Dignity*

*– The Glory of the Triune Fellowship of Love !*

*This is a dignity You abdicated,*

*Simply and solely, TO BE WITH US*

*... To re-connect us to Your Father,*

*Thereby humbly re-modelling human trust,*

*Our trust in the tenderest of Fathers*

*... Through You, the kindest of brothers !*

---

# See Note, Poem 751.



## Jesus' Carrying of the Cross <sup>1</sup>

(Poem 14, of 20 <sup>#</sup>)

Jesus,

*You were surrounded on Your way of pain,*

By US

... Yet, we "*knew not what we were doing !*" <sup>2</sup>

*You carried US to Calvary :*

*WE, were Your Cross !*

*You picked us up when WE fell*

... *Out of compassion.*

*Through Simon, begrudgingly – but then, freely,*

*WE picked You up when YOU fell*

... *Your grace, softening our initially indifferent hearts.*

*Yet, ultimately, we were incapable, OURSELVES, of a complete change*

– *Because WE also did the nailing ;*

*WE also stood round jeering and mocking You*

... *For NOT coming down from the Cross which, of course, was our cross as well !*

*You became OUR spectator-sport*

... *As Your body convulsed in spasms,*

*And suffocated the last vestiges of human life out of You.*

*All of US watched You suffering*

*And, even if some cared,*

NONE of US

*Had the COURAGE to move against group pressure*

– *To relieve Your torment, or to carry the load !*

*Mary did ... but believed it more important, to co-offer Your Sacrifice with You*

– *To co-witness to Abba's utter love for US !*

*It was only when You died*  
– *As a holocaust* FOR LOVE OF US,  
*That we realized*  
*That You were ... COVENANTED TO US,*  
*WED TO US UNTO DEATH – AND BEYOND !*  
*“O ! Too late have we loved You !”* <sup>3</sup>  
*Too late have we treasured*  
*Your love !*

---

# See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 764, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, September 2006, Week 2.

2 Cf Lk 23:34 3 St Augustine.

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

*(Poem 15, of 20 #)*

*Jesus Crucified,  
You hang there ... joined to us  
In loving kinship  
... "Even unto death", <sup>2</sup>  
But NOT 'to death do us part'  
– Because, in being "lifted up",  
You draw us to Yourself, <sup>3</sup>  
And in so doing, draw us TOGETHER,  
To each other,  
To Communion with Your Divine Family  
... Born of Life's resurgence  
Out of death!*

*In that 'hour', in You, O Son of Life,  
We journey THROUGH death  
–IN YOUR BODY, in Your very Person!  
In You, as members of Your incipient Church,  
We are suspended between heaven and earth ...  
Passing over from the heart of sin  
To the heart of God!  
It is a heart we have access to,  
ONLY through the wound of Your open side  
–Whence flows the waters of the Spirit <sup>4</sup>  
Alive with the Life of God!*

---

#See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 765, Year 8, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, September 2006. Week 3

2 Phil 2:8

3 Jn 12:32

4 Church Fathers.

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

*(Poem 16, of 20<sup>#</sup>)*

*Risen Jesus,*

*Revivified in You, we are raised up*

*As the 'New Man', as the 'New Creation' of Abba's Love ! <sup>2</sup>*

*... Raised up in You, the glorious focus of the universe !*

*The radiant heart of humanity !*

*... As Son in Fellowship !*

*As Child of Abba !*

*As the Beloved !*

*We are raised as brothers and sisters to You*

*... As both the Delight of the Cosmos, and beloved feet-washer !*

*We are raised with You, as the Glorious Body and Blood for humanity,*

*Whose Blood vitalized Your Glorious Body*

*And now, courses through our Church Community's 'arteries'*

*– Nourishing the poor in spirit,*

*–Nurturing the lowly and humble*

*... Those who know their need of God !*

*Wondrously, we are gifted with a myriad of risen brothers and sisters*

*–A galaxy of KIN !*

*All have Your eyes, Your smile !*

*They embrace, with but ONE set of arms – Yours !*

*Their hearts pulse, with just ONE heartbeat – Yours*

*... Drawing all into its RISEN rhythm*

*–Pulsing as ONE with Abba's Spirit !*

*Paradoxically, it is YOUR WOUNDS*  
*... That, having opened a passageway to Abba's Heart on the Cross,*  
*Now become emblems of identification with You !*  
*Our icons of adoption !*  
*The Spirit's seal of Glory for us !*

---

# See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 766, Year 8, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, September 2006. Week 3.

2 Eph 2:15 J.B. then N.R.S.V.

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

(Poem 17, of 20<sup>#</sup>)

*Jesus Ascended,*

*As the sun of Eternal Life IS ALREADY RISEN in Your spirit,*

*With You, we are swept up into the arms of Love :*

*Enraptured in the Fire of Abba's Divine Heart !*

*In that Spirit of Love, KISSED FORTH between Abba and You,*

*We IN You, proclaim the ASCENSION of humanity*

*–To the Glory of God !*

*In Your Radiant Body*

*–The apogee of Creation !–*

*Our transformed spirits, infinite with Your capacity,*

*Are filled, to overflowing*

*With the Divine Glory*

*–Abba's, and now, Your very own Spirit !*

*THUS is our humanity divinized in Yours :*

*Abba's "Promise" to You, <sup>2</sup>*

*Now becomes Gift ALIVE in You !*

*"Given without reserve," <sup>3</sup>*

*Given to be shared with us,*

*Your ennobled brothers and sisters !*

---

# See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 767, Year 8, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, September 2006. Week 3.

2 Acts 2:33.      3 Jn 3:34.

## Mary's Assumption <sup>\*\* 1</sup>

(Poem 19, of 20<sup>#</sup>)

Jesus,

Your Mother, in being drawn to Abba's bosom,  
Is the first WITNESS to full, resurrected love  
– The prime witness to that immense transformation  
That elevates and animates all human consciousness !

Assumed into the embrace of Glory,  
Mary anchors faith, inspires hope,  
And personalizes “the love that never ends”. <sup>2</sup>

Her FAITH defines her being :  
She is pure RECEPTIVITY to the Spirit,  
Pure ATTENTIVENESS to the Word,  
And pure ADORATION of the Father  
... “My spirit glorifies the Lord !” <sup>3</sup>

Her HOPE provides a model for the Church :  
In her, the Church beholds its OWN IDENTITY,  
And finds expressed in her,  
What it is called to be !  
And, like Mary assumed, “will see heaven OPENED,  
And the angels of God , ascending and descending  
On the Son of Man.” <sup>4</sup>

*In her surrender in love, Mary is taken up  
Into the very heart of God,  
Whose Son she cradled and saw die.  
O Jesus, in drawing Mary “to Yourself in splendour”,<sup>5</sup>  
She becomes humanity’s witness that this is OUR DESTINY !*

---

\*\* This poem, in particular has little original content : it is more a poetic paraphrase, heavily using  
Father A. Kelly’s prose phrasing. See # Note Poem 751.

1 Poem 769, Year 8, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, September 2006. Week 4.

2 1Cor 13:8

3 Lk 1:46

4 Jn 1:5

5 Cf Eph 5:27 (N.R.S.V.)



## Mary's Crowning as Queen

\*\* 1

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

*Jesus,*

*Abba's crowning of Your Mother*

*... As the earthly co-regent of heavenly love ...*

*Overflows Your heart with a Son's love !*

*Within the depths of her life in God,*

*Mary inhales, and breathes forth*

*—As does the Church, for whom she is an icon—*

*Abba's and Your own Holy Breath of Fellowship !*

*She is, thus, the first EMBODIMENT*

*— Within Your own Glorified Body —*

*Of that wondrous Fellowship*

*Which we are ALL being called to receive, and communicate !*

*Mary's co-regency in love is a human symbol*

*Of created reality, aflame with God's grandeur !*

*As such, O Jesus,*

*Mary is the ANTICIPATION*

*Of Your promised TRANSFIGURED creation :*

*In her, the great cosmic marriage begins !*

*JESUS Ascended ... in Mary, IN YOU,*

*WE become beautiful to God !*

*In her glorious giftedness, our history matures*

*... And arrives at its age of consent !*

*All this is expressed, in her now eternalized 'fiat'*

*... 'I surrender all to Love Transcendent !' 2*

*Out of the heavenly womb of Mary's SPIRIT,  
Husbanded by Abba,  
The WHOLE CHRIST of a transfigured creation  
Is born !  
In Mary, exalted as co-regent in the Spirit,  
The Gift of the Trinitarian Paschal Mystery  
Has ALREADY been assimilated  
By our hope-filled humanity !  
  
Mary, Queen of hearts, you are OUR HOPE !*

---

\*\* This poem includes, about 40%, of Father A. Kelly's prose phrasing and thus while not wholly original, it is out of a partnership that I have fashioned this poem.

# See Note, Poem 751.

1 Poem 770, Year 8, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, September 2006. Week 4.

2 Imagined quote.

## Our Fellowship's Symphony <sup>1</sup>

*O Spirit of surprise,  
Free our heart's voice  
To join and harmonize  
With those Divine tones sounding from every Paschal heart  
—Especially with the deep poignant tones of crucified souls.*

*TOGETHER, the symphonic beauty  
Of our New Fellowship's combined chorus  
—Resonating AS the Ascending Word—  
Transcends and transforms our lives  
... As our eager response  
To Abba's Song of Welcoming Love to us !*

## Rainbowed Spirits <sup>1</sup>

*We are but floating droplets of water  
Misted, by that Stream of Life  
Flowing from Christ's crucified side.*

*As His EASTER'S radiant white light  
Strikes this 'spray',  
We become rainbowed prisms, alive with Life !*

*Now, we are no longer isolated floating droplets  
But TOGETHER,  
Arching across Abba's skyscape,  
We reflect the Paschal Face  
Of Christ's rainbowed Beauty ...  
Shimmering in the mist of Easter Morn.*

## His Wounds, Source of Our Healing <sup>1</sup>

*“Jesus’ wounds are never healed over” <sup>2</sup>*

*... From them, Eternally,*

*Pours forth His Glory*

*For us.*

*Why? Because Jesus’ wounds are within us,*

*Within us, who are HIS BODY !*

*We truly co-share in His glorious woundedness :*

*“For the wounds ... of my people” is MY heart wounded ! <sup>3</sup>*

*The Glory pouring forth from His Wounds*

*Regenerates us, makes us whole ... IN Him*

*So that we become “an altogether new creature”, <sup>4</sup>*

*Members of the New Paschal Person of Christ,*

*Co-sharing in the DESTINY of our Ascended Brother.*

---

1 Poem 773, Marian Valley Retreat, early October 2006, Day 1.

2 Saying of Fr Gabriel, member of the Marian Valley’s Pauline Monastery.

3 Jer 8:11

4 Gal 6:15 (J.B.)

## Uplifted <sup>1</sup>

*Inspiration:* “The whole of our Life, in Christ, is a continuous process  
... Of God drawing us, raising us up to Himself, uplifting us.” <sup>2</sup>

*In being UPLIFTED into the Beloved’s Eucharistic Presence,  
Raised up into the unfolding of the Paschal Mystery –  
... the more humility is entrusted to us,  
the warmer is our sense of being ‘at home’;  
... the warmer our sense of being ‘at home’,  
the greater is our surrender of self;  
... the greater our surrender of self,  
the stronger is our yearning for intimacy and union;  
... the stronger our yearning for intimacy and union,  
the deeper we identify as both ‘beloved’ and ‘lover’;  
... the deeper we identify as both ‘beloved’ and ‘lover’,  
the free-er are the movements of His Spirit  
– from Jesus ‘without’, to Jesus ‘within’ us.*

*Indeed, when the Eucharistic Jesus engages us, heart to heart  
... the LESS our sense of self, of singularity, of separateness,  
the deeper is our sense of the Other, of belongingness ;  
... the less our attentiveness is to timing, to surrounds, to activity,  
the deeper is our sense of timelessness, spacelessness, and stillness ;  
... the less we attend to words, even Jesus’ WORDS,  
the more the Beloved’s VOICE silences our hearts ;  
... the less we attend to the taste of the Sacred Bread and Wine  
– to OUR experience of Eucharist –*

*The more the Beloved delights in bestowing His Kiss ;  
... the less we focus on the earthen impacts of Jesus' Body and Blood,  
the more receptive is our sense of BEING RAISED,  
Of both transcending this earth, and being re-connected to it !  
... and ultimately, in deepest simplicity,  
the MORE we feel transparent to His Light within us,  
the more luminously we seem to radiate the Beloved's Presence !*

---

1 Poem 774, Marian Valley Retreat, early October 2006, Day 2.

2 Fr Gabriel, member of the Marian Valley's Pauline Father's Monastery.

## Three Birds Outside My Window <sup>1</sup>

*Inconspicuous, its entry into the bush clearing ...  
Nonchalant, its meanderings through the weeds ...*

*THE PHEASANT still managed*

*Brief spasms of flight !*

*It seemed content with its earth bound inheritance,*

*Yet still aware of flight's benefit ...*

*And truly conscious of a sky to escape to !*

*A bird indistinguishable from its surrounds ...*

*A palette of earthen browns ;*

*Its only arresting feature –*

*Impressive, arching tail feathers ...*

*To guide, to balance it, in its low-level 'sorties'.*

*This is "the Spirit-bird":*

*One with us, with our earthbound horizons,*

*Yet one, calling us BEYOND, and UPWARDS !*

*Alighting, like dawning rays, upon a branch ...*

*With a gloriously rainbowed rainment*

*–An explosion of colour in a kabki tree scape –*

*THE ROSELLA appeared ... a prince of the spectrum !*

*Perching close, focussing on my presence,*

*–Brilliantly garbed, head-dressed in vivid saffron –*

*It was an exclamation mark*

*To the ordinariness of the day !*

*This is "the Christ-bird":*

*The Easter-Glory bird of our hidden life*

*Revealing our Destiny !*



*Then, as a sunbeam lit up my room,  
Out of an overcast day,  
A BIRD UNSEEN  
–But gloriously HEARD –  
Filled my spirit !  
Again, and again, and again  
Its piping five-note call  
– Wondrously melodic –  
Danced within my mind,  
Bursting like a blare of trumpets  
Into my inner being  
... A Song of Divine Delight !  
This is “The Abba-bird”:  
Father of the Child of the New Age –  
The Father of a reborn people’s joy !  
Parent of a peace that will last forever !*

## Members, One of Another <sup>1</sup>

A.

*To deny one's self FOR Jesus,*

*To be 'crucified' with Jesus,*

*Is to be CARRIED, in Jesus' body,*

*Through death,*

*– Out of the isolation of sin,*

*Out of the Godlessness of evil –*

*To be uplifted in Jesus' Risen, Ascended Body,*

*To commune IN God, WITH God !*

*O Wonder of Love ! O Mystery of Divine Kinship !*

*Let us then embrace this Passover into Life, IN Christ,*

*... Wherein brother and sister carries sister and brother,*

*... Wherein each member is in heart-to-heart communion*

*With EVERY OTHER member*

*For, IN Christ,*

*We belong to one another*

*... "Members one of another" ! <sup>2</sup>*

*The life we live is that-of-all-others within us :*

*As we receive from all, to give to all*

*... All become channels of Life to each other !*

*This Life, available FROM, and FOR, others*

*Is AS LIGHT, within and between us.*

*Thus there is a need for us all, to be TRANSPARENT*

*– Honest, trusting, open, at every level of our being.*

*Each is responsible for ALL of humankind ... welcoming or unwelcoming.*

*Each enlightens those of humanity ... who welcome the Light.*

*And wondrously, the love with which we love, IN Christ,*

*Is ALL a gift, from others,*

*And through us, to others !*

B.

*Yet, in a particular blessed way,*

*This ministering to ALL*

*Is the special ministry of those*

*“Who have left all to follow Christ”.<sup>3</sup>*

*For they are specifically CALLED to bestow their care*

*Not on the few, or even on the many,*

*But on ALL .*

*Still, for many of these evangelically vowed Christians,*

*Psychologically ... even pragmatically ...*

*Their hands reach out to many, not all.*

*Yet when the focus moves beyond care*

*–To spreading the Good News and to prayer –*

*Then, with an especial gift of God,*

*Those Christians, vowed or unwowed,*

*Who are called to be CONTEMPLATIVES,*

*Are left, through love, with no focus*

*–For the Good News, or for prayer –*

*Other than ALL !*

*Often, but not always, physically removed from the world,  
They are spiritually available to ALL.  
The contemplative heart murmurs its love to the Beloved ...*

*FOR ALL –  
Giving the ‘God-deaf,’ new ears,  
The voiceless, a voice,  
Becoming a praying heart, for all such.*

*The Beloved, in RESPONDING to these latter  
– ‘Let me hear your voice  
For your voice is sweet’ – <sup>4</sup>*

*Showers all who now LISTEN, who now are GIVEN VOICE,  
With a stream of Love’s gifts.  
Thus, the contemplative, the praying heart,  
Can become a conduit for God’s bounty  
... A chosen entry point for the Spirit  
To be poured into the lives of ALL !*

---

1 Poem 776, Marian Valley Retreat, early October 2009, Day 3.

2 Eph 4:25

3 Cf Mt 19:27,29

4 Sg 2:14

## Rejoice! <sup>1</sup>

*Disciples of Jesus :*

... **Re**-visit frequently the source of our true JOY :

*Communing with Abba, Jesus, and Loyce*

*... As They live Their Life of JOY*

*Within us !*

... **E**ucharist your heart daily, within Christ's holocaust

*Of His heart to Abba ;*

*Gather only what is good in others,*

*Becoming Eucharist-for-them, in the Beloved.*

... **J**oin in Jesus Ascended's heart-song of love to Abba

*– For that neighbour, nearest-in-need :*

*Pray that their need becomes*

*A God-space of trust.*

... **O**ffer all we've become – Christened spirits –

*As a gathering, communing group, to Abba*

*–Hearts of warmth and welcome*

*For all the lowly of this world.*

... **I**ntroduce these lowly ones to brother Jesus,

*So they can feel at home in His Heart :*

*Fathered fondly by an attentive Abba,*

*En-Spirited, to join hands and hearts with others !*

... Confess our communal confidence in Abba's embrace  
–To witness to the overwhelmingly attractive power  
Of His self-surrendering Love !  
–To simply adore His Loveliness !

... En-Spirit all others with the Spirit we've received, IN Christ,  
Lavish them with Abba's Spirit of homemaking ...  
With the Gift of Family Union,  
Rejoicing in Father-Son-and Spirit's Gift to Each Other !

## Radical Conversion : Radiating Fellowship <sup>1</sup>

*Abba, Jesus, Loyce,* <sup>2</sup>

*Change me* RADICALLY :

*Let me* RADIATE *Your Fellowship*

*To all people ...*

*So together : one* IN *Christ*

*We are* *Lover, Beloved and Love ...*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 778, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Used by author, as a prayer at Eucharist.

## Ears and Voice <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus* <sup>2</sup>

*Be the Ears and the Voice*

*Of the Beloved Son IN us;*

*Through us –*

*Do all that the Beloved does ...*

*BE all that the Beloved is ...*

*Within us.*

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1 Poem 779, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

2 Used by the author, as a prayer at Eucharist.



## Holocaust <sup>1</sup>

*Abba,*

*Draw me deeply in Jesus's sacrifice of love to You ;*

*Pour Jesus' Spirit of Sacrifice into my heart*

*... quickening it, into heartfelt surrender ;*

*Ready this heart, to keep on loving, through death,*

*... becoming a HOLOCAUST to Your Love ;*

*Make me an ever more explicit sign, and servant,*

*... of Your Beloved's Eucharistic Sacrifice .*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 780, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

Note: Used by the author, as a prayer at Eucharist.