THE POETRY OF FAITH

"Earth's the right place for love.

I don't know where it's likely to go better".

Robert Frost

If poetry "lacks necessity", it lacks life. "Truth's the heart of poetry", as it is for prayer, and if it's in the blood, it has to be said.

"Earth is the right place". It's all we have. It's everything we have.

"So be reposed and praise, praise the way it happened, and the way it is".

P.J. Kavanagh

"Living is dailiness, a simple bread That's worth the eating."

Judith Wright

It's hard to miss the echo from the wisdom of Jesus in his teaching on prayer:

"Give us today our daily bread". For Jesus, as it was for Judith Wright, this is a world of grace, where...

"we are wound
With mercy, round and round,
As if with air".

Gerard Manley Hopkins

The American poet, Mary Oliver's understanding of poetry reads like a good description of prayer, which "mirrors all of life, reporting it, questioning it".

Philip Carter is a retired Anglican Priest. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD). He ran the Julian Centre in Adelaide, an independent and ecumenical centre for spirituality, from 1997-2009.

Contact: juliancentre@gmail.com