

## **THE POETRY OF FAITH**

***“I have had worse partings, but none that so  
Gnaws at my mind still. Perhaps it is roughly  
Saying what God alone could perfectly show –  
How selfhood begins with a walking away,  
And love is proved in the letting go”.***

Cecil Day Lewis

Cecil Day Lewis speaks of an event, ordinary and particular “eighteen years ago, almost to the day” – watching a son after a football match walking away “from me” towards the school- “like a winged seed loosened from its parent stem”. A simple, everyday event, universally played out in “nature’s give and take”. As is so often said: we don’t have to search for crucifixion, “scorching ordeals”. They find us. And they prove us.

The centre and focus for our faith is God in Jesus,  
***“totally expended in precarious endeavour”.***

W. H. Vanstone

***“Each day forces us  
to totter on planks we hope  
will become bridges”.***

Kevin Hart

Dailiness. Givenness. And weakness. This little Haiku poem by the Australian poet Kevin Hart exposes an inner stubbornness, a resolute willingness to work with what is and at the same time to be captured by something more. Our future is beckoning, and it shapes us even more than our past. Jesus is our future that has already appeared. He is a bridge, offering us the way forwards: let us walk in it.

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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](mailto:juliancentre@gmail.com)

***“Heaven is everything earth has withheld”.***

Daniel Berrigan

According to Ivan Karamazov “there is no sin, or crime, only hunger”. In fact, Ernst Blok says, two different hungers. The first is the desire for things that already exist, which is ultimately so destructive because we always demand and want more. The second hunger longs for what does not yet exist, which is full of promise, releasing in us hope and energy for a future, better, world.

***“There is another world, and it is in this one”***

Paul Eluard