How's your ***sight***? As I ***look*** at you, I can ***see*** that the optometrists of Caloundra are doing pretty well. A little over one year ago, I started wearing these glasses because I began to notice that I could no longer read the question on the bottom of the XXXX beer cap - my arms weren't long enough. While these lenses *bandaided* my blindness – so to speak – the act of ***seeing*** what God reveals in our lives is a two-way dialogue between us and Jesus – risen and present in our midst. Let me ask you though: do you believe that he speaks to us and is risen and present in our midst? I daresay that many of us do, but I wonder how many of us believe this because it's what the Church teaches ***vs*** those who ***know*** He speaks and is present because they've encountered His love, joy and peace firsthand?

The Saints, for example, are people whose lives were transformed in ***this*** life through personal experience of Jesus' risen presence. Through prayer as a primary conduit, they came to ***see*** Jesus as intimately present - "Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God" – not only in their own lives, but in the world around them; and this drove them to dedicate the rest of their lives to sharing ***this*** Good News with others because once you see Jesus everything changes.

Now, in this congregation, it's likely that around 97% of us are baptised, and so we've already received the necessary grace to ***begin*** replicating the lives of the saints. The challenge though, as John writes in the second reading, is to embrace the fact that God has ***more*** in store for every person here including me. *"My dear*

people, we are already the children of God – ie. Baptised – *but **what** are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is that when it is revealed we shall **be like Him** because we shall **see** Him as he really is."*

This is where the question of ***our*** spiritual ***sight*** comes into play because God's love, joy and peace are not in question. *"Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,"* John begins the second reading – or as other translations say, *"See what love the Father has given us."* What ***is*** in question is whether we have the eyes to see where and when God's love for us has ***already*** been revealed. And this ***has*** to be true doesn't it because we were loved into creation.

To *"think of the Fathers love,"* or to *"see it,"* therefore, starts with prayerfully reflecting on where Jesus has already revealed himself in our lives. Can you identify a time when you felt a sense of love, joy or peace washing over you? You didn't make it up, but all of a sudden, it was given you. It's quite possible that God was reaching out, attempting to reveal himself. This past-tense seeing leads to a present-tense ***knowing*** - "I can ***see*** that God was present in my life at that time, therefore, I ***know*** that he's real. And this is where dialogue with Jesus comes into play because what we see in a spiritual sense is what ***we*** perceive and understand. This means that it's something for us to ***do***, not just passively receive. As English teachers might say: the subject – us – performs the action.

As a form of prayer, I highly recommend reflecting upon God's love, joy and peace alone while writing in a journey. You could begin with simply asking the question, "Lord, where have you already been

present in my life?" Or even the prayer of Samuel, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." Here in this moment, by way of conclusion, I invite you to centre yourself, close your eyes, open you palms, releasing all distractions, and make this prayer your own. "Lord this is the people who longs to see your Face. Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! Thank you for loving me into creation. Thank you for revealing your love, joy and peace to me. Open my eyes to see you so that I may ***see*** and ***know*** that you are intimately present. Give me the courage, like the Saints, to ***share with others*** what you have given me with others. Through Christ our Lord. Amen." ***All Saints, holy women and men of God: Pray for us.***