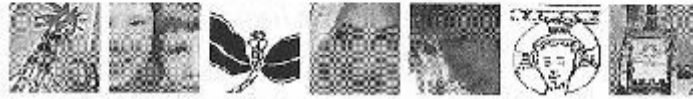


# Emerging from Shadow



Collected poems of  
Neil Richardson  
**1965-2005**

January, 2006 saw the publication of **Emerging from Shadow**, the collected poetical work of Neil Richardson. Readers of Magna will already be a little aware of Neil's poems, but this collection contains 164 stretching from his first preserved poem of 1965 to those written 40 years later. The poems present a mixed diet of work ranging from the very personal and familial to comment on world affairs. There are descriptions of family and friends and reflections stimulated by visits to various places.

At the heart of the collection are three series of poems. The first is an ever expanding series about Marion and the marriage relationship. The collection contains 37 of these poems. Then there is a series of reflective verse on the Passion of Jesus Christ, mirroring the banners of the Passion made by Ginette Gillard and hanging in Holy Cross New Church. Added to this is a series of poems reflecting on the Fruits of the Spirit, as in Galatians chapter 5, and written to celebrate the start of the third millennium of the Christian era. Here is an example from 1999:-

## **The Chastening**

Chastened by a laggard, late Spring frost,  
the garden's dawn is white and sharp, again.  
Climbing with ease the cold and steel blue sky  
the sun brings slow relief to grassy pain.

Around the silhouetted house and trees,  
a stealthy vanguard mobilised at dawn,  
warm light advances imperceptibly  
to coax the hoary frost out of the lawn.

Released from its encounter with the ice,  
the garden wipes away its stiff, cold frown.  
So freshly bathed, inviting, soft and damp,  
sweet tufts of grass are hanging gently down.

Tempted to rejoice,  
I feel much more the chastening.

Spring in its turn  
is short-leased, winter hastening.

All Nature's seasons have their pain.  
All human life must wax and wane.

