

# CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, HOWTH

## **CELEBRATING A CHRISTIAN FUNERAL**

### **Beyond**

Beyond the night the grey dawn waits to steal across the sky -

Beyond the dawn - the day - and so the hours go rolling by -

With hands outstretched we seek a heaven hidden from our sight -

Beyond our pain - we know there must be peace and pure delight ...

The thrill of Life's sweet mystery is in this reaching out -

Towards a Something real and good beyond our human doubt ...

The questing mind takes wing - a soul aroused can know no rest -

And Death itself can never dim the ardour of the quest -

There's always a Beyond - we go on striving ceaselessly -

Towards a God - the consciousness of perfect harmony

PATIENCE STRONG (1907-1990)

**Old  
Testament  
Readings**

## **Reading 1.**

### **A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,  
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise,  
they did appear to die,  
their going looked like a disaster,  
their leaving us,  
like destruction;  
but they are at peace.

If they experienced punishment as others see it,  
their hope was rich with immortality;  
slight was their affliction,  
whatever they suffered,  
their blessing will be great.

God has put them to the test  
and proved them worthy to be with Him.

He has tested them like gold in a furnace,  
and accepted them as a holocaust.

They who trust in Him will understand the truth,  
those who are faithful will live with Him in love;  
for grace and mercy await those He has chosen.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 2**

### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah (25: 6-9)**

On this mountain,  
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples  
a banquet of rich foods.

On this mountain  
He will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples,  
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,  
He will destroy death forever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;  
He will take away His people's shame,  
everywhere on earth  
for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said;  
"See, this is our God,  
in whom we hoped for salvation:

The Lord is the one in whom we hoped.  
We exult and we rejoice  
that He has saved us".

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 3**

### **A reading from the book of Wisdom**

There is a season for everything,  
a time for every occupation under heaven:

A time for giving birth,  
A time for dying;  
A time for planting,  
A time for uprooting  
what has been planted;

A time for hurting,  
A time for healing;  
A time for tears,  
A time for laughter;

A time for mourning,  
A time for dancing;  
A time for embracing,  
A time to refrain from embracing;

A time for searching,  
A time for losing;  
A time for keeping,  
A time for throwing away;

A time for keeping silent,  
A time for speaking;  
A time for loving,  
A time for hating;  
A time for war,  
A time for peace.

I know that whatever God does endures forever,  
Nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it,  
God has done this  
so that all should stand in awe before him.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 4**

### **A Reading from the Book of Job.**

How I wish  
that someone  
would remember my words  
and record them  
in a book

or with a chisel  
carve my words  
in stone  
and write them  
so that they would last forever.

For I know  
that there is someone  
in heaven  
who will come at last  
to my defence.

And after my life  
has been thus destroyed,  
then in my flesh  
I will see God.

I will see Him  
with my own eyes,  
and he will not be a stranger.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 5**

### **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

Do not be afraid,  
for I have redeemed you,

I have called you by name,  
you are mine.

Should you pass through the sea,  
I will be with you;  
or through rivers,  
they will not swallow you up.

Should you walk through fire,  
you will not, be scorched  
and the flames will not burn you,

for I am Yahweh your God,  
the Holy one of Israel,  
your Saviour.

You are precious in My eyes;  
you are honoured  
and I will love you.

Do not be afraid,  
for I am with you.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Reading 6**  
**A reading from the book of Lamentations**

The favours of the Lord are not all past,  
his kindnesses are not exhausted,  
every morning they are renewed,  
great is His faithfulness.

'My portion is the Lord'  
says my soul  
'and so I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who trust him,  
to the soul that searches for him.

It is good to wait in silence  
for the Lord to save.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 7**

### **A reading from the book of Wisdom**

The virtuous though they die  
before their time will find rest.

Length of days is not  
what makes age honourable,

nor number of years  
the true measure of life.

Understanding  
- this is a person's grey hairs,

Untarnished life  
- this is ripe old age.

Coming to perfection  
in so short a while,  
they achieved long life;

Their souls being pleasing to the Lord,  
He has taken them quickly  
from the wickedness around them.

Yet people look on, not understanding;  
it does not enter their heads that  
grace and mercy await  
the chosen of the Lord,  
and protection, His holy ones.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Reading 8**  
**A reading from the book of wisdom**

Death was not God's doing,  
God takes no pleasure  
in the extinction of the living.

God created us for life,  
and the virtuous live forever,  
their reward lies with the Lord,  
the Most High takes care of them.

So they shall receive a Kingdom of glory,  
and a crown of beauty at the hand of the Lord;  
for he will shelter them with his right hand,  
and shield them with his arm

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Reading 9**  
**A Reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Fear not, I am with you,  
do not be dismayed;

I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you,  
and uphold you with my right hand of justice.

For I am the Lord, your God,  
who grasps your right hand;  
it is I who say to you  
"Fear not, I will help you"

I have brushed away your offences like a cloud,  
your sins, like a mist, return to me,  
for I have redeemed you.

Can a mother forget her infant?  
be without tenderness  
for the child within her womb?

Even should she forget,  
I will never forget you.

See, upon the palm of my hand  
I have written your name,

Yes, in joy you shall depart,  
in peace you shall be brought back.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 10**

### **A reading for the book of Deuteronomy**

The Lord your God goes before you,  
do not be afraid.

You have seen how he has carried you,  
as a father carries his little child.

All along the road you have travelled  
till you came to this place.

And the Lord your God has blessed you  
in all your works.

He has been with you this many years,  
and you have lacked nothing.

Your God is a merciful God,  
who will not fail you,  
or forget the covenant he made with his people.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Reading 11**  
**A reading from the Book of Psalms**

Happy the person who fears the Lord

Who takes delight in His commands.

Their justice stands firm forever.

They are a light in the darkness,

generous, merciful and just.

The good person takes pity and lends,

conducts their affairs with honour

and will be remembered forever.

Such a person has no fear of bad news,

with firm heart they trust in the Lord.

Open-handed they give to the poor,

their justice stands firm forever,

they will be raised to glory.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial**

**Psalms**

## **Responsorial Psalm 1.**

**Response:      The Lord is compassion and love.**

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

**Response:      The Lord is compassion and love.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.

**Response:      The Lord is compassion and love.**

As a father has compassion on his children,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;  
for He knows of what we are made,  
He remembers that we are dust.

**Response:      The Lord is compassion and love**

The love of the Lord is everlasting  
upon those who fear him;  
His justice reaches out to children's children  
when they keep his covenant in truth.

**Response:      The Lord is compassion and love.**

## **Responsorial Psalm 2**

**Response: My soul is thirsting for God.**

Like a deer that yearns  
for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning  
for you my God.

**Response: My soul is thirsting for God.**

My soul is thirsting for God,  
the God of my life;  
when can I enter and see  
the face of God?

**Response: My soul is thirsting for God.**

By day the Lord will send  
His loving kindness;  
by night I will sing to him,  
praise the God of my life.

**Response: My soul is thirsting for God.**

Why are you cast down, my soul!  
why groan within me?  
Hope in God; I will praise him still  
My Saviour and my God.

**Response: My soul is thirsting for God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm 3.**

**Response: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.**

Out of the depths I cry to you,  
O Lord, Lord, hear my voice.  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading.

**Response: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.

**Response: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
more than the watchman for daybreak.

**Response: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.**

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. R/

**Response: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.**

## **Responsorial Psalm 4**

**Response:       Those who hope in the Lord  
will not be disappointed.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me  
because of your goodness, O Lord.

**Response:       Those who hope in the Lord  
will not be disappointed.**

Relieve the anguish of my heart  
and set me free from distress.  
See my affliction and my toil  
and take all my sins away.

**Response:       Those who hope in the Lord  
will not be disappointed.**

Preserve my life and rescue me.  
Do not disappoint me,  
You are my refuge.  
May innocence and uprightness protect me:  
for my hope is in you, O Lord.

**Response:       Those who hope in the Lord  
will not be disappointed.**

## **Responsorial Psalm 5**

**Response: Lord, listen to my prayer.**

Lord, listen to my prayer.  
Turn your ear to my appeal.  
You are faithful, you are just;  
give answer,  
do not call your servant to judgement  
for no one is just in your sight.

**Response: Lord, listen to my prayer.**

I remember the days that are past;  
I ponder all your works.  
I muse on what your hand has wrought  
and to you I stretch out my hands.  
Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you.

**Response: Lord, listen to my prayer.**

Teach me to do your will  
for you, O Lord, are my God.  
Let your good spirit guide me  
in ways that are level and smooth

**Response: Lord, listen to my prayer.**

## **Responsorial Psalm 6**

**Response:      The Lord is my light my help;**

The Lord is my light my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the Stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink?

**Response:      Lord, listen to my prayer.**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the day's of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple.

**Response:      Lord, listen to my prayer.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord!

**Response:      Lord, listen to my prayer.**

**New**  
**Testament**  
**Readings**

## **READING 1**

### **A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians**

Brothers and Sisters,

For us, our home is in heaven,

and from heaven comes the saviour

we are waiting for,

the Lord Jesus Christ,

and He will change these bodies

of ours into copies of His glorious body.

He will do that by the same power

with which he can subdue the whole universe

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 2.**

### **A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans**

The life and death of each of us  
has its influence on others;

if we live; we live for the Lord;  
if we die, we die for the lord.

This explains why Christ  
both died and came to life;

it was so that He might be Lord  
of both the dead and the living.

We shall all have to stand  
before the judgement seat of God;

as scripture says:  
'by my life - it is the Lord who speaks -  
every knee shall bend before me,  
and every tongue shall praise God'.

It is to God, therefore,  
that each of us  
must give an account of ourselves.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 3**

### **A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.**

We want you to be quite certain,  
my friends,  
about those who have died,  
to make sure  
that that we do not grieve about them,  
like the other people  
who have no hope.

We believe  
that Jesus died and rose again,  
and that it will be the same  
for those who have died in Jesus.  
God will bring them with him.

With such thoughts as these  
you should comfort one another.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 4**

### **A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.**

We know that the one  
who raised the Lord Jesus  
will raise us also with Jesus,  
and bring us with you into his presence.

Yes, everything is for your sake,  
so that grace,  
as it extends to more and more people,  
may increase thanksgiving,  
to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart.  
Even though our outer nature is wasting away,  
our inner nature is being renewed day by day.  
For this present suffering  
is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory  
beyond all measure,  
because we look  
not at what can be seen,  
but at what cannot be seen;  
for what can be seen is temporary,  
but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know  
that if the earthly tent we live in  
is destroyed,  
we have a building from God,  
a house not made with hands,  
eternal in the heavens.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 5**

### **A reading from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians**

I will tell you something  
that has been secret:

that we are not all going to die,  
but we shall all be changed.

This will be instantaneous,  
in the twinkling of an eye,  
when the last trumpet sounds.

It will sound,  
and the dead will be raised,  
imperishable,  
and we shall be changed as well,  
because our present perishable nature  
must put on infinity  
and this mortal nature  
must put on immortality.

When this perishable nature  
has put on infinity,  
and when this mortal nature  
has put on immortality,  
then the words of Scripture will come true:

Death is swallowed up in victory.  
Death where is your victory?  
Death where is your sting?

Now the sting of sin is death,  
and sin gets its power from corruption.  
So let us thank God  
for giving us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## Reading 6

### **A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.**

What then are we to say  
about these things?

If God is for us,  
who is against us?

Who will separate us  
from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress,  
or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more  
than conquerors through  
him who loved us.

For I am convinced  
that neither death nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present,  
nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height,  
nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us  
from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

## Reading 7

### A Reading from the Book of Revelations

I, John heard a voice  
from heaven say to me,  
"Write down:  
Blessed are those  
who die in the Lord!  
Blessed indeed,  
the Spirit says;  
now they can rest forever  
after their work,  
since their good deeds  
go with them"

**The Word of the Lord.**

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## **Reading 8**

### **A Reading from the First letter of St. John.**

See what love the Father has given us,  
that we should be called children of God;  
and that is what we are.

The reason the world does not know us  
is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;  
what we will be in the future  
has not yet been revealed.

What we do know is this:  
when he is revealed,  
we will be like him,  
for we will see him as he really is.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## Reading 9

### **A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians**

Love is always patient and kind;  
it is never jealous;

love is never boastful or conceited;  
it is never rude or selfish;

it does not take offence,  
and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins'  
but delights in the truth;

it is always ready to excuse,  
to trust, to hope,  
and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.

In short, there are three things that last:  
faith, hope, and love;

and the greatest of these is love.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 10**

### **A reading from the first letter of St. Peter**

You shall all agree among yourselves,  
and be sympathetic;

Have compassion and be gentle.

Never pay back one wrong with another,  
or an angry word with a another one;  
instead, pay back with a blessing.

That is what you are called to do,  
so that you inherit a blessing yourself.

Remember;  
Anyone who wants to have a happy life,  
and to enjoy prosperity,  
must banish malice from their tongue,  
deceitful conversation from their lips;  
they must never yield to evil,  
but must practice good;  
they must seek peace and pursue it.

Because the face of the Lord frowns on evil people,  
but the eyes of the lord are turned towards the good.

Why, Christ himself,  
innocent though he was,  
had died once for sins,  
died for the guilty,  
to lead us to God.  
In the body he was put to death,  
in the spirit he was raised to life.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 11**

### **A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans.**

You have been taught  
that when we were baptised in Christ Jesus  
we were baptised in his death;

in other words,  
when we were baptised  
we went into the tomb with him  
and joined him in death,

so that as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the Father's glory,  
we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ  
we have imitated his death,  
we shall also imitate him  
in his resurrection.

We believe  
that having died with Christ  
we shall return to life with him;

Christ, as we know,  
having been raised from the dead  
will never die again.

Death has no power over him any more.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 12**

### **A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST. JOHN.**

By this we know  
that we abide in God  
and he in us,  
because he has given us his Spirit.

And we have seen  
and do testify  
that the Father has sent his Son  
as the Saviour of the world.

God abides in those  
who confess  
that Jesus is the Son of God,  
and they abide in God.

So we have known  
and believe  
the love that God has for us.

God is love,  
and those who abide in love  
abide in God,  
and God abides in them.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 13**

### **A Reading from the first letter of St. John.**

My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God,  
and everyone who loves  
is begotten by God  
and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love  
can never have known God,  
because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world  
his only Son  
so that we could have life through him.

This is the love that I mean:  
not our love for God,  
but God's love for us  
when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice  
that takes our sins away.

My dear people,  
since God has loved us so much,  
we too should love one another.

No one has ever seen God;  
but as long as we love one another  
God will live in us  
and his love will be complete in us.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

## **Reading 14**

### **A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

Only faith can guarantee  
the blessings that we hope for,  
or prove the existence of the realities  
that at present remain unseen.

It was for faith  
that our ancestors were commended.  
All these died in faith,  
before receiving any of the things  
that had been promised,  
but they saw them in the far distance  
and welcomed them,  
recognising that they were only  
strangers and nomads on earth.

People who use such terms  
about themselves  
make it quite plain  
that they are in search  
of their real homeland.

They can hardly have meant  
the country they came from,  
since they had the opportunity  
to go back to it;

but in fact  
they were longing  
for a better homeland,  
their heavenly homeland.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**“Alleluias”**

**Gospel  
Acclamation**

# **Gospel Acclamations**

## **Gospel Acclamation 1**

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
If we have died with Christ,  
then we shall live with him;  
if we hold firm,  
then we will reign with him.  
Alleluia!**

## **Gospel Acclamation 2**

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the resurrection and the life  
says the Lord whoever believes in me  
will never die  
Alleluia!**

## **Gospel Acclamation 3**

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Our homeland is in heaven,  
and from heaven comes the Saviour  
we are waiting for,  
The Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!**

## **Gospel Acclamation 4**

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Happy are those who die in the Lord!  
Now they can rest for ever after their work,  
since their good deeds go with them.  
Alleluia!**

***(Omit Alleluias during Lenten season)***

**Prayers**  
**of the**  
**Faithful**

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

- 1) We pray for \_\_\_\_\_ that he/she may be at peace with God in heaven,  
LORD HEAR US.**
  
- 2) We pray for \_\_\_\_\_ family and friends that our faith in the Resurrection of Jesus and his promise of life in heaven may bring them comfort and hope,  
LORD HEAR US.**
  
- 3) We pray in thanks for the many ways in which the goodness and kindness of \_\_\_\_\_ touched the lives of all who knew her/him,  
LORD HEAR US.**
  
- 4) We pray for the gift of God's peace in our own hearts and homes and for peace throughout the world,  
LORD HEAR US.**
  
- 5) We pray for all who are sick and for all who have asked us to pray for them as we pray also for all who cared for \_\_\_\_\_ in his/her illness,  
LORD HEAR US**
  
- 6) We pray for all our deceased relatives and friends whose memory comes to mind today and whom we pray are at peace with God in heaven,  
LORD HEAR US**
  
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ loved life to the full. May we learn to accept our joys and sorrows and live our lives as true Christians.  
Lord hear us.**
  
- 8) We pray for the hospital staff who cared for \_\_\_\_\_ and his/her family in the course of his/her illness. May their kindness and thoughtfulness be rewarded.  
Lord hear us.**
  
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ was a loving, caring human being and a wonderful caring father/mother to \_\_\_\_\_, deeply committed to doing his best for his family and friends. May we all have the courage to follow his example.  
Lord hear us.**

**10) For the family and friends who will miss\_\_\_\_\_, that they may find strength and consolation in their faith and in the love and support of the community.**

**Lord hear us.**

**11) For all our departed friends and relatives and all who were close to us in this life. Lord give them the reward of their goodness.**

**Lord hear us.**

**12) God of consolation, help us to comfort one another in our grief, finding light, in times of darkness, and faith in times of doubt.**

**Lord hear us.**

**13) Let us pray for all here present that our memory of \_\_\_\_\_, whom we loved, may inspire us with renewed love for our fellow men and women.**

**Lord hear us.**

**14) For all who are seriously ill at this time, may God give them his healing Spirit, and free them from anxiety.**

**Lord hear us.**

**15) Through the gift of your Spirit, lead all nations and peoples to resolve their differences and seek the way of peace together.**

**Lord hear us.**

**16) We pray for those who are victims of injustice or oppression. Lord let them know your love for them. Help them to experience that love more concretely, through our active solidarity with them.**

**Lord hear us.**

**17) May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God, who stood by the cross as her son was dying, help those who mourn and be with all of us in our times of need.**

**Lord hear us.**

**18) In Baptism\_\_\_\_\_ received the light of Christ. scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.**

**Lord hear us.**

**19) Our brother/sister was nourished at the table of the Saviour. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.**

**Lord hear us.**

**20) We pray for the victims of war violence and injustice and for those who are working to bring peace and justice to all people.**

**Lord hear us.**

**Communion**

**Reflections**

## **Reflection 1**

### **For those I love**

For those who love me...  
When I am gone,  
release me, let me go.  
I have so many things to see and do.  
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears.  
Be happy that we had so many years.  
I gave you my love;  
you can only guess  
how much you gave me in happiness.

I thank you for the love  
you each have shown.  
But now it's time I travelled alone!

So grieve a while for me,  
if grieve you must.  
Then..,  
let your grief be comforted by trust.

It's only for a while  
that we must part.  
So bless the memories  
that lie within your heart.

So if you need me,  
call and I will come.

Though you can't see or touch me,  
I'll be near.

And if you listen with your heart,  
you'll hear  
all of my love around you,  
soft and clear.

And then,  
when you must come this way alone...  
I'll greet you with a smile  
and "Welcome Home"!

## **REFLECTION: 2**

### **Gone only from our sight.**

I am standing on the seashore.  
Suddenly a ship at my side  
Spreads her white sails  
to the morning breeze,  
and starts out for the blue ocean.

She is an object of beauty and strength,  
And I stand and watch her  
Until at length  
she is only a ribbon of white cloud  
Just above where sea and blue sky  
mingle with each other.  
Then someone at my side says:

"There! She's gone!"

Gone where?  
Gone from my sight - that is all.  
She is just as large in mast and hull  
As she was when she left my side,  
And just as able to bear  
her load of living freight  
To the place of destination.  
Her diminished size is in me,  
not her,

And just at the moment  
when someone at my side says:

"There! She's gone!"

there are other voices ready to greet her  
with a glad shout:

"There! She comes!"

And that is dying.

### **REFLECTION: 3**

#### **Peace at last**

May the Lord support us  
all the day long,  
Till the shades lengthen  
And the evening comes,  
And the busy world is hushed.  
And the fever of life is over  
And our work is done.  
Then in his mercy,  
may He give us  
A safe lodging,  
a holy rest,  
And peace at the last,  
Amen.

## **Reflection 4**

### **Footprints**

One night I dreamed a dream.  
I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky  
flashed scenes from my life.  
For each scene,  
I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life  
shot before me  
I looked back  
at the footprints in the sand.  
There was only one set of footprints.  
I realized  
that this was at the lowest  
and saddest times of my life.  
This always bothered me  
and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, You told me  
when I decided to follow You,  
You would walk and talk with me all the way.  
But I'm aware  
that during the most troublesome times of my life  
there is only one set of footprints.  
I just don't understand why,  
when I need You most, You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child,  
I love you  
and will never leave you,  
never, ever,  
during your trials and testings.

When you saw only one set of footprints,  
It was then that I carried you."

## **REFLECTION 5**

You can shed tears  
that he/she is gone

Or you can smile  
because he/she has lived.

You can close your eyes  
and pray that they come back

Or you can open your eyes  
and see all he/she has left.

Your heart can be empty  
because you can't see him/her

Or you can be full of the love  
you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow  
and live yesterday

Or you can be happy for tomorrow  
because of yesterday.

You can remember him/her  
and only that he's gone

Or you can cherish their memory  
and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind,  
be empty and turn your back

Or you can do what he/she would want:  
smile, open your eyes,  
love and go on.

## **REFLECTION 6**

### **Death is only a Horizon.**

We give them back to You O Lord,  
who first gave them to us;  
And as You did not lose them in the giving,  
so we do not lose them in the return.

Not as the world gives  
do You give O Lord,  
for what is Yours is ours also,  
if we belong to You.

Life is unending because love is undying,  
And as the boundaries of this life  
are but a horizon,  
and an horizon is but the limit of our vision.

Lift us up strong, Son of God,  
that we may see further.  
Strengthen our faith  
that we may see beyond the horizon.

And while You prepare a place for us,  
as You have promised,  
prepare us also for that happy place;

So that where You are  
we may be also,  
with those we have loved, forever.

## **REFLECTION 7**

### **Death is not the end.**

Death. is nothing at all -  
I have only slipped away  
into the next room.

Whatever we were to each other,  
that we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name.

Speak to me in the easy way  
which you always used.

Laugh as we always laughed  
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be the household word  
that it always was.

Let it be spoken without effort.

Life means all that it ever meant.

It is the same as it always was;  
there is absolutely unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of your mind  
because I am out of your sight?

I am but waiting for you,  
for an interval,  
somewhere very near,  
just around the corner.

All is well.

Nothing is past; nothing is lost.

One brief moment  
and all will be as it was before - only better,  
infinitely happier and forever -  
we will all be one together with Christ.

## **Reflection: 8**

### **Compassion**

I feel your pain  
and long to touch the hurt  
and make it melt away.

Yes, I know  
that I can't really see  
the breadth  
and depth  
of this dark valley you're in.

I can't truly know  
just how sharp the knife is  
in your soul -  
for it is you are in its path,  
not me.

But I have known other valleys,  
and in my heart  
still bear knife-wound scars.

Even so,  
I would walk your road  
if I could.  
I cannot.

And yet, perhaps  
in some ways  
I can be a hand to hold  
in the darkness:

In some way,  
try to blunt  
the sharpness of pain.

But if not -  
it may help a little  
just to know I care.

## **REFLECTION.9**

Birth is a beginning  
and death is a destination.  
A life, a journey

From childhood to maturity  
and youth to age,

From innocence to awareness  
and ignorance to knowing,

From foolishness to discretion  
and then perhaps to wisdom.

From strength to weakness -  
and often back again.

From offence to forgiveness,

From loneliness to love,

From joy to gratitude

From Pain to compassion  
and grief to understanding.

From fear to faith,

From defeat to defeat -

Until looking backward and ahead,  
we see that victory lies

not at some high place  
along the way.

but in having made the journey,  
stage by stage.

## **REFLECTION 10**

There is no night  
without a dawning.

No winter  
without a spring.

And beyond death's dark horizon  
our hearts once more  
will sing -

For those who leaves us  
for a while

have only gone away

out of a restless,  
careworn  
world

into  
a  
"Brighter Day".

## **REFLECTION 11**

### **Afterglow**

I'd like the memory of me  
to be a happy one.

I'd like to leave an afterglow  
of smiles when  
life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo  
whispering softly  
down the ways,

of happy times and  
laughing times and  
bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears  
of those who grieve,  
to dry before the sun,  
of happy memories  
that I leave  
when life is done.

## **Reflection 12**

### **Remembering**

Everyone loves to be remembered.

But if we want to be remembered,  
we have a duty to remember.

Memory is a powerful thing.

Wrongly used it can bring death  
rather than life.

Rightly used it is a form of immortality.  
It keeps the past alive.

Those we remember never die.  
They continue to walk and talk with us.  
Their influence is still felt among us.  
There is nothing stronger or more helpful,  
than a good remembrance.

Sisters and Brothers, we want you to know,  
that we haven't forgotten you.

We remember you

and your memory,  
most definitely  
brings life to us today.

May it also assure us of life for you,  
that eternal life  
Christ came on earth  
to give us.

## **Reflection 13**

### **Death of a Friend**

Let me remember him/her  
as he/she was,  
dear Lord,  
all the days of my life.

Honest and upright,  
wholesome and inspiring,  
always ready to lend a hand  
to those in need

and to brighten the lives  
of the weary  
and the sad.

Smiling, warm of heart,  
full and fresh with life,

a loyal and treasured friend,  
a lover of the simple things of life.

And in remembering him/her, O Lord,  
may I remember you

## **REFLECTION 14**

The trees are bare  
and the songs of birds have left;  
gone too the chanting of insects.  
Only the winter wind raises her voice  
in chilling canticles of praise.

Wrapped in her burial shroud of snow,  
the earth patiently awaits  
the warm touch of your Spirit, O God,  
to rouse her from the sleep of death,  
calling her to rise and come forth  
from today's tomb of winter.

I proclaim the mystery of my faith  
that spring will follow winter,  
that life will follow death  
and that one day  
all the tombs of death's white season  
will be transformed into the green of spring,  
who is the sister of your Spirit.

May my trust in the coming of spring  
on this cold winter day  
be a sign of my faith  
in the resurrection of all life,  
the fulfilment of your promise  
that we all will share  
in the new life and eternal spring  
of your son, Jesus Christ.

Come, but only in due season,  
O glorious spring.  
And, until then, may I live in the promise  
of your life-giving touch.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MASS

**MEMORY TABLE (optional):** Items representing the person life that are be brought to a table at the altar.

\_\_\_\_\_

### **READINGS**

**N.B. 1:** If two readings are chosen the first reading is usually from the Old Testament and the second from the New Testament but not always necessarily so.

**N.B. 2:** If only one reading is chosen it can be from the Old or New testament

#### **Name of Reader**

**First Reading:** Old/New Testament \_\_\_\_\_

**Responsorial Psalm:** 'if not sung' \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Reading:** *(Optional)* New Testament \_\_\_\_\_

**Gospel is read by the priest**

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### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

These can be said by one or two people or by the same number of people as you have 'Prayers of the Faithful'

#### **Name of Reader**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

The 'Prayers of the Faithful' can be changed or made out from new.

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_

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### OFFERTORY PROCESSION

The bread and wine are usually brought up by two people but more people can be involved

#### **Name**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

### **COMMUNION REFLECTION {Optional}**

If decided to have a communion reflection it can be any of the reflections or some other appropriate reflection of your choosing.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANY OTHER NAMES OR ARRANGEMENTS: e.g. Eulogy**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_