

The Dash

A Poem by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend,
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end.
He noted first came the date of the birth and spoke the following date with
tears,
But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between the years.

For that dash represents all the time that they spent life on Earth,
And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash,
What matters is how we live and love, and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand the way other people feel.

Be less quick to anger and show appreciation more,
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash,
would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?



**Requiem Mass Celebrated by
Fr. Andrew Jolly**

Organist - Angela Cunningham
Vocalist - Claire Heddle

Entrance Hymn - Abide With Me

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see,
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Blessing ~ Opening Prayers

First Reading

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians(4: 14-5: 1)

Read by Ryan Calvert (James' eldest Grandson)

We know that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among the people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God. That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal. For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is My Shepherd

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (14: 1-6)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I am gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place I am going." Thomas said "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way? Jesus said "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Homily ~ Bidding Prayers

Offertory Hymn - Hail, Queen Of Heaven

Hail, Queen Of Heaven, The Ocean Star,
Guide Of The Wanderer Here Below,
Thrown On Life's Surge, We Claim Thy Care,
Save Us From Peril And From Woe.
Mother Of Christ, Star Of The Sea,
Pray For The Wanderer, Pray For Me.

O Gentle, Chaste, And Spotless Maid,
We Sinners Make Our Prayers Through Thee;
Remind They Son, That He Has Paid
The Price Of Our Iniquity.
Virgin Most Pure, Star Of The Sea,
Pray For The Sinner, Pray For Me.

Sojourners In This Vale Of Tears,
To Thee, Blest Advocate, We Cry,
Pity Our Sorrows, Calm Our Fears,
And Soothe With Hope Our Misery.
Refuge In Grief, Star Of The Sea,
Pray For The Mourner, Pray For Me.

And While To Him Who Reigns Above,
In Godhead One, In Persons Three,
The Source Of Life, Of Grace, Of Love,
Homage We Pay On Bended Knee.
Do Thou, Bright Queen, Star Of The Sea,
Pray For The Children, Pray For Me.

Eucharistic Prayer ~ Our Father ~ Communion

Communion Hymn - I Watch The Sunrise

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky,
 casting its shadows near.
And on this morning bright though it be,
 I feel those shadows near me;

But you are always close to me,
 following all my ways.
May I be always close to you,
 following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds,
 warming the earth below.
And at the midday life seems to say,
 I feel your brightness near me;

For you are always close to me,
 following all my ways.
May I be always close to you,
 following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the sunset fading away,
 lighting the clouds with sleep.
And as the evening closes its eyes,
 I feel your brightness near me;

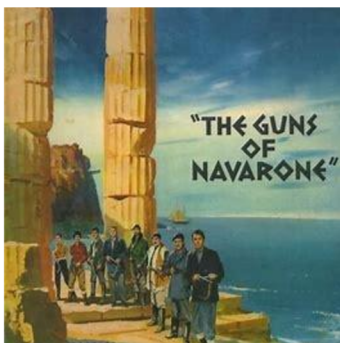
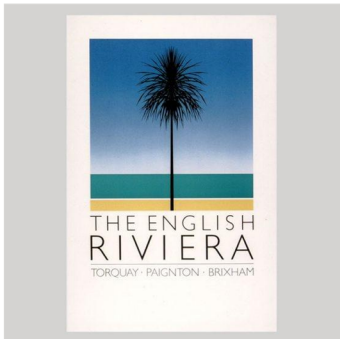
For you are always close to me,
 following all my ways.
May I be always close to you,
 following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the moonlight guarding the night,
waiting til morning comes.
The air is silent, earth is at rest,
only your peace is near me;

For you are always close to me,
following all my ways.
May I be always close to you,
following all your ways, Lord.

Eulogy

Written and read by Louise Baldwin and Catherine Lowe (James' daughters)



Committal Prayers

Recessional Hymn Sweet Heart of Jesus

Sweet Heart Of Jesus! Fount Of Love And Mercy,
Today We Come Thy Blessings To Implore;
Oh Touch Our Hearts So Cold And So Ungrateful,
And Make Them Lord, Thine Own For Evermore.

Sweet Heart Of Jesus! We Implore,
Oh, Make Us Love Thee, More And More.

Sweet Heart Of Jesus! Make Us Know And Love Thee.
Unfold To Us The Treasures Of Thy Grace.
That So Our Hearts, From Things Of Earth Uplifted,
May Long Alone To Gaze Upon Thy Face.

Sweet Heart Of Jesus! Make Us Pure And Gentle
And Teach Us How To Do Thy Blessed Will;
To Follow Close The Print Of Thy Dear Footsteps,
And When We Fall, Sweet Heart Oh, Love Us Still.

Sweet Heart Of Jesus! Bless All Hearts That Love Thee,
And Make Thine Own Heart Ever Blessed Be.
Bless Us Dear Lord, And Bless The Friends We Cherish,
And Keep Us True To Mary And To Thee.

The Service will continue with the committal at Gidlow Cemetery, Wigan
Road, Standish, WN6 0AD.

"As they lay me beneath the green green grass of home"



The Carnival Is Over

Song by The Seekers

Say goodbye, my own true lover
As we sing a lovers' song
How it breaks my heart to leave you
Now the carnival is gone

High above the dawn is waiting
And my tears are falling rain
For the carnival is over
We may never meet again

Like a drum, my heart was beating
And your kiss was sweet as wine
But the joys of love are fleeting
For Pierrot and Columbine

Now the harbour light is calling
This will be our last goodbye
Though the carnival is over
I will love you 'til I die

Though the carnival is over
I will love you 'til I die



