

**Communion Reflections  
For Funeral Mass**

## Table of Contents

1) Death is not the end. ....	3
2) Death is only an Horizon .....	3
3) Stranger at our side .....	3
4) Builders of Eternity.....	3
5) Peace at Last .....	4
6) Gone only from our sight.....	4
7) Footprints .....	4
8) Dear Parents.....	5

## **1) 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 ever 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 in Christ.  
Henry Scott Holland

## **2) Death is only an 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 the boundaries of this life are but an 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; that where you are we may be also, with those we have loved, forever.  
Bede Jarett, O.P.

## **3) Stranger at our side**

All through life's day our risen Lord walks with us. Often, however, he is a stranger to us, for he never forces himself upon us. Before the day's end, we will ask many questions, experience many failures, disappointments and heartaches. And then, suddenly, whether we are young, middle aged or old, we will find that the shadows are lengthening and night is fast approaching. In that moment we pray that, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our eyes will be opened and that we will recognise him – the stranger who walked at our side – as our risen Lord. And he will not vanish from our sight. Instead he will guide us through the dark valley of death to the safety of the Father's house.

## **4) Builders of Eternity**

Isn't it strange that princes and kings  
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,  
And ordinary folks, like you and me,  
Are builders of eternity.  
To each is given a bag of tools,  
An hour-glass and a book of rules;  
And each must build 'ere time has flown,  
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

## **5) 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 last. Amen

## **6) 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 the sea and 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 in 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.

## **7) Footprints**

One night a man had a dream. He dreamt that he was walking along a beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed the scenes of his life. For each scene he noticed not one, but two sets of footprints in the sand. He understood immediately that one belonged to him and the other to the Lord. But then he noticed a curious thing. At the lowest and saddest times in his life there was only one set of footprints. This bothered him and so he asked the Lord: "How come that during the most difficult times in my life, the very times when I most needed you, you left me on my own?" Then the Lord replied: "My friend, during your trials and sufferings when you see only one set of footprints, those footprints are mine. It was then that I carried you.

## 8) Dear Parents

I did not die young. I lived my span of life within your body and within your love. There are many that have lived long lives and have not been loved as me.

If you would honour me, then speak my name and number me among your family. If you would honour me, then strive to live in love, for in that love I now live.

Never, ever doubt that we will meet again. Until that happy day I will grow with God and wait for you.

Miss me but let me go  
When I come to the end of the road  
And the sun has set for me  
I want no rites in a gloom filled room  
Why cry for a soul set free?  
Miss me a little, but not too long  
And not with your head bowed low  
Remember the love that we once shared  
Miss me but let me go.  
For this is a journey we all must take  
And each must go alone  
It's all a part of the master plan  
A step on the road to home.  
When you are lonely and sick at heart  
Go to the friends we know  
And bury the sorrow in doing good deeds  
Miss me but let me go.