

*“Whispers
of
Love”*

4



POEMS AND PRAYERS

*by
Olive Borland*

Whispers
of
Love

4

Poems, Prayers & Pictures

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Foreword

While “Whispers of Love” 4, is my fifth volume of poetry it is in fact my eighth publication. My third volume of poems was called Give God the Glory and it is my prayer that as you read this latest volume you will do as the title of volume three suggested and “Give God the Glory.” Yes, give God the glory for all you see and read because without the Holy Spirit my efforts would be poor indeed.

I hope you will also see the majesty of our great creator God as you view my pictures.

As you read the poem “Whispers of Love” on the page opposite you will see that I believe God is the One who gives me inspiration so I felt that in respect to Him I should revert to the former title of “Whispers of Love” for additional publications.

“The Life and Labours of Tom Anderson” the story of my Uncles relationship with the Lord, was my first publication other than poetry. Later during a time of illness I felt led of God to write The Jigsaw Puzzle, the story of The Lord’s dealings in my own life, then in the year 2010 I wrote, Kerrykeel “A Place Worth Remembering” my recollections of childhood spent in the village of Kerrykeel, Co. Donegal.

I wish to express sincere gratitude to the Rev. Janice Brown and to Mr John McAteer the editor of the Tirconaille Tribune newspaper for their advice, encouragement and time spent reading before taking Whispers of Love 4 to print.

Olive Borland

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Whispers of love

Whispers of love
From Heaven above
Speak to this heart of mine
And tell me of the Gift that cost
The life that was Divine

The Gift of my salvation
Was bought upon a tree
By the lovely Son of God
Who died on Calvary

I thank Him that He whispers still
And that for good and not for ill
May I ever attentive be
To the One who speaks to me

John 10 v 4 & Romans 8 v 23



Slieve League, Carrick, Co. Donegal

I Admire Your Creation Lord

As I admire Your creation Lord
my heart is filled with pride
that You the Great Creator of all
are my Saviour, Lord and Guide.

As I scan the majestic mountains
I worship at Your feet
acknowledging Your amazing ability
to seek, to save and keep.

The sound of the glistening waves
that lap against the shore
speak of Your sustaining power
to maintain creation the world o'er.

The strength and heat of the sun above
reminds us of Your love
shining on each and every one
whether we accept or reject Your love.

Daisies

As I sat in the garden the other day
I became aware that before me was a wonderful display.
 Blooming in the grass were daisies galore
Although sitting for a while I hadn't noticed them before.

 In truth they shouldn't have been there at all
An expert gardener would have got rid of them in the fall.
 Yet on close inspection I now took time to note
 These dainty flowers clad in their beautiful coats.

 Daisies are so commonplace for you and for me
 That we often disregard them indefinitely.
 But they are very beautiful I have got to say
With golden hearts, white petals and green stems arrayed.

As we look closely at daisies there is much we can see
 That reminds of how our lives should be.
Their hearts and their petals are fed through their stems
One question I ask, "Are we too being fed like them?"

Trusting in Christ for salvation and cleansing from sin
We receive new life in the Spirit and growth through Him.
If we allow Him to rule, our hearts then should be gold,
Souls cleansed from sin are white as snow too we are told.



The Message of the Snowdrop

Nothing looks as fragile as a snowdrop in the snow
with its delicate white drooping head peering from below.
This little suspended droplet on its slender stem of green
is once again declaring there is a God who is unseen.

Surely it's another miracle, however can it be
that this fragile little soldier should appear so perfectly?
The ground has been so hard and the snow has been so deep
yet this fragile little beauty has awakened from its sleep.

It was sent to remind us that our God is still in control
God never breaks a promise - take heed weary soul.

“As long as the earth remains there will ever be
Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter from now until eternity”

Our God also promises all those who trust in Him
“I will never leave you, I will give you strength within,”
So we need not fear the winter gales or the frosty nights
because our God has promised to ever keep us in His sight.

The One who created the snowdrop - created you and me
He created us for a purpose to enjoy Him for eternity.
Like the little snowdrop we need to rely on Him
He will see us through life's storms - with Him we too will win.

Snowdrops blossom for a season then they fade away
only to be renewed again on another day.
So it is with you and me when our time on earth is done
if we've trusted the Saviour then at death life will only have begun.

At times I almost lost the plot amid the stress and strain
but again our Saviour kept His Word, He brought me through again.
He brought me through the storms of life - praise His holy name
because my Saviour will lift *my* head again.





The Necessity of Pruning

While pruning I was reminded to take note lest I forget
to give thanks to my loving Saviour who has left me growing yet,
With compassion and tender mercy, with grace and loving care
He said, "I will leave you growing in the hope you will flourish there.

I could see Him look with sadness, almost in despair;
He knew I should have been producing beautiful blooms with perfume rare
I was now ashamed in my frail and sinful state
'cause He had provided everything to make me beautifully ornate.

If He had been any old gardener I would now be in the bin.
For my life and continued existence I now must give praise to Him
Then I heard His gentle voice, tender, soft and low,
"Let me prune away the dross so you can with abundance grow."

At first I was reluctant to allow Him to intervene
then I saw the most compassionate look my eyes have ever seen,
And I knew within my heart that I was safe with Him
Safer, yes much, much, much safer than I had ever been

I said. "Yes please prune, weed, water and fertilise I pray;
I want to bloom for You more beautifully each and every day."
"I want the fragrance and the beauty of each petal that unfolds
to attract and tell of Your greatness to every needy soul."



Ballydaheen Gardens, near Portsalon

God's Garden

While flowers are beautiful and gardens are great
there is no greater privilege than helping God His garden create.

He invites us to plant and He invites us to sow
the seed of His Word as we onward go.

He has the ability to weed, water and prune,
He aims and desires to produce the most beautiful blooms.
Blooms that will cause onlookers to take note and take heed
of what He the expert gardener can do with seed.

He doesn't need help yet He chooses you and me
I believe He wants to teach us as we watch His ability.
He can turn lives that are wrecked and ruined by sin
into plantations of beauty that bring glory to Him.

Lives that are now dense thickets of weeds and thorns
can become areas of beauty that are a pleasure to look upon.
So while flowers are beautiful and gardens are great
what joy to see lives blooming that once lay desolate.

Beautiful well kept gardens we all appreciate
but they cannot compare with lives that were in a terrible state.
Lives that become living examples of what God can do
If we His good seed sow - and they *His will* pursue.

Father's Angel Love

Let me tell you of a dove that strayed from its path in flight
when rather than arriving home it landed at my friends one night
Heather was delighted when this bird it came to stay
but oh her heart was heavy when after a week it flew away.
She had come to care for it as she fed it day by day
but now her heart was saddened, she felt poorer in a way.
But to her amazement, you will never guess I know;
there was her darling dove with her new beau in tow.
Birds of a feather I am sure you will agree
are what you and I are generally accustomed to see
But this dove had found a pigeon and in its sheer delight
it was proudly introducing its new partner in flight.
Together this couple created for themselves a home
and from that dwelling ventured to feed at Heather's home.
Heather, she was delighted that they had come to stay;
she was more delighted when they introduced offspring one day
Seriously, on investigation I was surprised to find
there are 318 species of pigeon / dove listed on line
Apparently there are many differences that you and I can see
but thought of generally as being of the same family.
The bigger and bolder are classified as pigeons true
while the smaller and gentler are known as doves to me and you
So perhaps Heather's visitors are cousins entwined
sent to fascinate and activate Heather's mind and mine
One dove was very special and of him I would like to tell;
he was in the ark with Noah when upon earth there was a swell
A mighty swell of water sent by God in anger from above
sent to destroy this sinful world that had rejected His love
But this dove with other creatures was mercifully saved
as was Noah and his family because of the faith Noah displayed.
God used the dove to inform Noah when the water had receded;
He then supplied on earth the necessities the ark's inhabitants needed.
God also made a promise never again to flood the earth
He put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of that truth
But take note, He sent a warning that there would again come a day
when He would judge this earth because of sin as in Noah's day.

Genesis Chapters 6, 7 & 8

Our Dearly Beloved Dog



Our dearly beloved dog died the other day;
You are stupid I know you are going to say
But I began to speak to that dog lying there
in the hope he would respond to my loving care.

But try as I might there was naught I could do;
Deep in my heart I knew this fact to be true
But how I longed to see him wag his tail
in the cute loving manner that had prevailed.

But I had to accept that our dog's life had gone
I was powerless to renew that loving bond.
I was then reminded of one fact that is true
Man is spiritually dead in our Creator's view.

Now try as we may to God we can't get through
because sin has blocked the way for me and you.
We cannot of ourselves that relationship renew
But in mercy God has reached out to all – not a few.

God sent His Son Jesus who was willing to die
His sacrifice can redeem all who to Him draw neigh
All God asks us to do is to come in repentance and faith
accepting that Jesus our Redeemer died our sin to erase.

God accepts Jesus sacrifice in place of our sin
He then restores our spiritual life with Him.
So why not accept this amazing free offer of grace
and be reunited with the God of Redeeming Grace.

Believe me there is no relationship here on earth
that can lift our hearts and leave our souls blessed.
Like that living relationship with our Father above
when He communes with His repentant children in love.



Winter Scene, Ramelton January 2011



An Amazing Artist

My God is a truly amazing artist I am sure you would agree
if you could see the beautiful picture that is now in front of me
Etched in ice upon the glass of our bathroom window pane
is a picture of ferns so beautiful I can barely find words to explain.

Ferns so wonderfully perfect in contour and design
just seeing them pictured there thrilled this heart of mine
God didn't need a paint brush, a pencil or a crayon
yet He was able to paint a beautiful picture of ferns just the same

Neither did He need the aid of a candle, torch or lamp
He created this beauty while man was having his nightly nap.
I thought, can I preserve this picture that may so quickly melt away
so I picked up the camera to preserve this beauty for another day.



*From our field
Cloughfin, Rossnakill overlooking Mulroy Bay*

Snow, God's Amazing Creation

God, our amazing Creator was at work again I see
Around us is now a picture of beauty to delight you and me.
Such sights delight the eye, the heart, the mind and the soul
To create a vision of perfection was God's aim and goal.

In this He succeeded, because now all around I see
a vista of splendour in white on every flower, plant and tree.
I have one question? I wonder can you answer it for me
How does God get snow to sit on every branch so perfectly?

How did He create this spectacle in such a short time?
How did He change our world without a euro, pound or dime?
Why didn't God need the help of man, bird, fish or beast
when He created this vision upon which my eyes now feast?

These light, white, feathery flakes that are so, so fragile in form
Fell from the sky that shortly before was a pleasure to look upon.
So where did it come from, how was it possible to create
this carpet of white that now lies deep and soft beneath my feet?

If man was to aim this vision of wonder to recreate
He would find it impossible to accomplish this amazing feat.
No amount of manpower, money, machinery, technology or time
could recreate this vision of beauty before these eyes of mine.



Our Lane at Cloughfin, Rossnakill

The Recent Ice & Snow

it caused problems for folks who had to move to and fro.

Yet, it was a time to consider God's provision and care
good food, warm clothes, great friends, a home to share.

Ice and snow caused problems for both man and beast
in the home, on the farm, on the road and on the street.

So much care had to be taken by all, at all cost
because serious accidents can happen on snow and frost.

Many had to slip, to slide, to slither or to sleigh
all the way to work, to school, to home or to play,
It was impossible all roads to grit, to salt or to sand,
so wisely many activities were cancelled in our land.

When frosty weather and dangerous conditions prevail
it is often wise, sensible and safer to curtail
unessential activities, functions and plans
in the interest of safety of woman and man.

Accidents and injury can cause heartache and pain
many individuals and families are never the same.
Frost makes walking difficult, bones are likely to snap
so it is wise to take care because no one needs that.

The same principal applies when some folks we meet
if the atmosphere is frosty it may be wise to retreat
'cause like ice, tempers too have been known to snap
then trouble is very likely to land in our lap.

Frosty conditions we know can make frayed tempers raw
so like travel it is often better to wait for the thaw
Then when opportunities to help arise and this we do
we will again see loving relationships renewed.

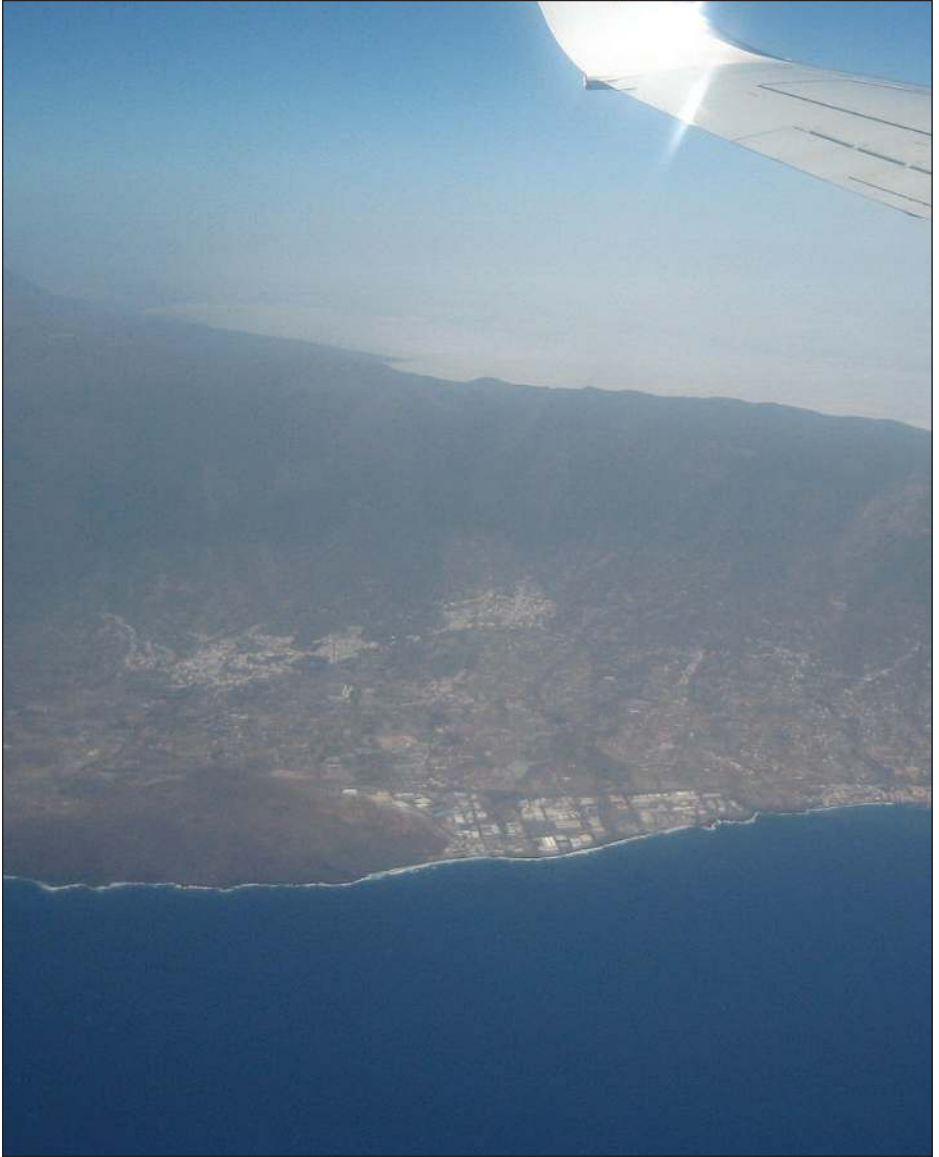


Tirhomin, near the old Milford Bakery

The Necessity of Water

After the recent ice and snow I am sure you will agree
it was unprecedented to hear of the lack of water nationally
Many folk were suffering; many, many were in distress
we cannot survive without water if we are to maintain life and health
Water is a daily necessity if we are to stay healthy and hydrated
without it we would become unwell and would soon become agitated
Water is essential for almost every activity in life
for cooking, cleaning and maintenance of daily life here on earth
So let us never, *ever* forget to give thanks to God above
for the daily essentials of life He supplies from His bountiful heart of love
When God the Son was speaking to the woman at the well
He offered her Living Water of which she was soon to tell
He had asked *her* for water but He said if she really understood
she would have asked Him to make available Living Water as only He could
He said, “The person who drinks earthly water will soon thirst again
but the one who drinks of the “water” I offer will never, *ever* thirst again”
When she asked for this water - Jesus was immediately able to tell
every detail about her life and the people in her life as well.
Jesus knew her need couldn't be solved by water or by food,
Or by physical relationships, this she soon clearly understood.
She said, “You are a prophet - and she then went on to tell
“I know the Messiah is coming; He will explain everything well”
I am sure she was amazed when she heard the Saviour say;
“I who speak to you am He,” What a revelation she had that day.
She immediately went and told that she had met the One
whom she believed to be the Christ; many now went in search of Him.
“Come and see the man who told me everything I ever did,”
were the words of testimony she used that caused them to seek and live.
Many then believed and understood that they too had met the One
who was indeed the Messiah, the Christ; the Saviour from all sin.
They too received the Water of Life that could quench every thirst
Jesus still makes this Water available to all - even the very worst.
All who claim to be wise; take note - as our bodies crave water each day
our souls also have a spiritual need that can only be satisfied spiritually.

John 4 v 1-30



Aerial scene en-route Majorca

How Foolish to Worry

As we fly over the earth it is amazing to see
vast areas of uninhabited territory
Yet on closer inspection I can guarantee
life of many kinds that the human eye cannot see.

Beautiful snow clad mountains, lakes, rivers and seas
team with wildlife, flora and fauna to delight you and me
All if this beauty retained, sustained and maintained
century after century without human aid.

Even deserts have hidden treasures to explore
treasures that we cannot see as we fly up and o'er
If we are wise we will take note and understand
the One who sustains these territories holds our lives in His hand.

How foolish to worry day after day after day
about what we will eat or where we will stay
God states clearly in His Word for all to read
we should not worry needlessly over our earthly needs.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6 v 33 & 34



Aerial view enroute from Vienna

One of Life's Questions

How was it possible in days gone by
when there were no aeroplanes or satellites high in the sky
to survey our earth and create the maps that we see
with the accuracy that can direct you and me?

God created man with an enquiring mind
with intellect and intelligence to solve problems given time.

He also gave His created instructions to go:
“Inhabit the earth”! God’s Word clearly says so.

God never instructs us without providing a way
when we can fulfill His purpose as we trust, honour and obey

For the Creator it would be no problem to tell
all about His creation He knows it so well.

But as with most choices He allows us to decide
which direction we will take and just where we will abide.

The best decision we can make is to follow His Way;
trusting in His Son who died to save us one day!

*Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them,
"Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.*

Genesis 9 v1



Reflection on water, Enniskillen

God's Divine Reflection

When the water we view is quiet, peaceful and still,
God can reflect His creation within it at will.
The beauty of the mountains, the fields and the trees
the bushes, the flowers and even the leaves.
We can see animals grazing and birds flying low,
we can also see people as they move to and fro.
All above can be captured in a moment of time
by our Heavenly Father if He has a mind.

Man's attempts at creation can sometimes jar
with God's wonderful creation that is superior by far.
Sometimes human structures can look out of place,
if left untended and crumbling they can become a disgrace.
Yet God has given man abilities like His own,
abilities to create bridges, workplaces and beautiful homes.
Places where God can be honoured and blessed,
where man can gain strength, encouragement, renewal and rest.

Sadly in many places God's landscape is scarred
by thoughtless, selfish people who leave the vista marred.
We are sometimes saddened, shocked and disgusted to see
God's beautiful world marred so thoughtlessly.
But then I remembered with shame that this life of mine
is meant to reflect the beauty of our Saviour divine.
I was then humbled and convicted to bow down and pray;
asking God to lead and direct me every step of the way.

God desires that our lives too be quiet, peaceful and still,
submitted to His Divine leading, guiding and directing will.
The light of "**His**" **SON** shining into our dark souls
identifies the areas that need to be made whole.
Thankfully He has the ability to remake and renew
any area that is necessary within me and you.
It is His aim and desire that all who look on can see
His divine loving nature reflected in us eternally.



New life in the sacred place

Our Amazing Heavenly Father

When God our amazing Heavenly Father began to create us with loving care
He knit us together in our mother's womb when even she didn't know we were there.

He did so with skill and precision, He did so with loving care
Paying attention to every detail going as far as to count every hair!

How did He create every sinew, every tendon, every muscle and bone?
Never mind every neuron and brain wave and our DNA that is uniquely our own!

He created us unique and special: He created us with a purpose in mind,
He created us to resemble His beloved Son and He was only one of a kind.

Jesus the only begotten Son of the Father was divine in substance, in power and in might;
Yet He willingly became man in order to rescue man from his sinful plight.

God created man in His image but foolishly man disobeyed;
Sin was now in the equation God's relationship with man was frayed.

Yet because God loved His creation He sent His Son who became human though divine;
He alone was without sin's blemish He alone could take your sin and mine.

How God must have been saddened when man stubbornly went his own way
by ignoring his Creator's instructions in the Garden of Eden that day.

How we ought to worship and praise Him, God the Father, the Spirit and Son;
when we recognise our dependence from even before we were born.



*Michael Whoriskey's Christmas display
near Kerrykeel*

Yuletide

Many are preparing for the approaching Yuletide
When families will congregate around the fireside
 There to reminisce, encourage, tease, cajole,
Many relating memories of experiences the world o'er.
Much will have happened in the year that's almost gone
Many happy and sad moments to share with one and all
 Christmas a time of feasting, festivities and fun
We would do well to remember why this festive time begun

It began with the birth of Jesus, God's beloved Son
He was born to save sinful man, born for everyone;
 Born of a virgin, both human and divine;
Only He the Son of God could take your sin and mine
 Salvation is a gift of grace, a gift of grace divine
But you and I must accept salvation to make it yours or mine
 This year as we reminisce let us not forget to tell
The Good News of our Saviour who came to earth to dwell.



*Michael Whoriskey's Christmas display
near Kerrykeel*

Christmas Time is Special

Christmas time is special, Christmas time is great,
Christmas is the time God's Son's birth to celebrate.
Jesus Christ came to earth with a specific role in mind,
He came to save a fallen world, to save a lost mankind.
So let us never, *ever* forget amid the festive fare,
That Jesus this world's Saviour came our curse of sin to bear.

*Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full
acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world
to save sinners – of whom I am the worst.*

1 Timothy 1 v 15

Christmas is for Family

Christmas is for family I hear many people say,
I believe this to be true; this is why Jesus came our way.

He left the realms of glory to unite God and man,
to bring us into His family was His divine aim and plan.

Man's bond with God was broken - our forebear's in Eden had sinned,
God knew we were powerless to renew our relationship with Him.

So Jesus came to take our place – to bear our sin and shame,
He went all the way to Calvary – praise His great and holy name.

Jesus alone was sinless – He was both God and man,
His blood alone could sin atone as He fulfilled His Father's plan

Now, all who trust in Jesus, are adopted by His Father above,
forgiven, cleansed, restored, renewed by our God whose heart is love!

So Christmas is for family – God's family who extol Christ's birth,
thanking Him for salvation – what a day for man on earth.

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and
only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not
perish but have eternal life. For God did not
send His Sin into the world to condemn the world
but to save the world through Him.*

John 3 v's 16 & 17

Salvation, a Free Gift

Now that Christmas is over, now that Christ's birthday is past;
it's time for many to get back to normality at last.

Normality for most will be work, rest and play;
giving little thought to God's Will for their lives day by day.

Christmas, a time for celebration, feasting, festivities and fun;
sadly many will forget Christ now that a New Year has begun.

Most will have ignored that it was His birthday at all;
not wishing to acknowledge that a Saviour was born.

To acknowledge is to admit that we are not in control
of our lives, our destiny or our sin sick souls.

Sadly many do not know that only He can forgive
and give a purpose to life and a reason to live.

If only I could somehow get the opportunity to explain
Jesus gives peace and joy to believers instead of heartache and pain.

Like the Christmas gifts we received from family and friends;
God offers salvation as a gift to all who on Christ Jesus depend.

This gift guarantees each recipient an eternal home on high
where we will dwell with our Saviour there by and by.

Tell it Again

Tell it again that amazing story of old
Tell how the Good Shepherd was born into our fold
Tell how **He** who was to become the Saviour of men
- was born in a stable in Bethlehem.

Tell how there was no room for Him in the Inn
Tell how sinful man still has no room for Him
Tell how He willingly left the splendour of Heaven
Knowing He would one day give His Life for them!

Jesus, who never sinned, became sin for me
Because of love He gave His Life on Calvary's Tree
He as God, *knew* that no sin could enter heaven
So He chose to die that we might be forgiven.

God's Holy Word demanded that a ransom be paid
If the sin in man's heart was to be allayed
Therefore Jesus became human like you and like me
So that His sinless blood could set us free.

God, the Father had promised to accept His sacrifice
So Jesus willing paid the price for the sin in our lives
Now all He asks us to do is repent and believe
Then from God we will redemption receive.

If we live our lives in faith Jesus promises to be
With us throughout life wherever we may be
Then one day when life on this earth is o'er
We will dwell with our Saviour for evermore.

Take note, salvation for no-one is automatic
If we don't accept God's gift then we will remain static
God will never force His Will on you or on me
But He warns of a VERY different outcome eternally.

This Time of Discernment

Now at this time of discernment
as this year is passing into the realms of time,
If you and I take a backward look
will you be satisfied with what we will find?

Will we have dotted the i's and crossed the t's,
will we with satisfaction rest content?
Or will we be saddened, disappointed, disheartened
realising our time was poorly spent?

Will could have been, would have been
or should have been be the words upon our lips?
Will we be ashamed or embarrassed,
wondering where this year of opportunity went?

Or will we be able to give thanks to God
for His divine guidance every step of the way?
Realising that He has been our strength and help
throughout every passing day?

Will this earth and the people living on it
have been enriched in any way
because you and I have resided here
for the past 365 days?

Will we spend precious time and energy
blaming others for our troubles and woes?
Or will we acknowledge our responsibility
for the actions and the choices we chose?

Now as we look to the future
may we assess just why we are here?
Then seek the help, wisdom and strength of God
as we live life in this coming year.

May we discern the needs of others!
May we help whoever and wherever we can
If we do so then this time next year
we will be at peace with God and man.



Mulroy Bay taken from our home at Cloughfin, Rossnakill

Enter The New Year With Faith

Christmas is over and another year has begun
The festivities have ended that commemorated the birth of God's Son
We who have celebrated the birth of our Saviour and Lord
Have been granted a New Year in which to serve our God
While many in the year that is past have had troubles and woes
We are thankful that God is still in control and our needs He knows
Jesus promises all who put their faith and their trust in Him
"I will never leave you or forsake you if you repent of sin,"
"Come unto me all you who are weary & heavy laden and I will give you rest,"
Is the promise He gave to all who in any way are stressed
He our God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and the wealth in every clime
So we need not fear the future knowing that He has our best interests in mind
God our Heavenly Father has the good of His children *ever* in mind
He even promises an eternal home in heaven with Him given time
So as we begin this New Year may we do so in faith
Knowing that we need not fear the future if we live in the strength of His grace!
So may we all enter the year ahead with courage and strength
Relying on the One who alone holds the keys to life and death

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And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4 v 19

"I will never leave you or forsake you."

Joshua 1 v 5

"Come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11 v 28

"For every beast of the forest is mine and the cattle on a thousand hills".

Psalms 50 v 10



Our lane at Cloughfin, Rossnakill

The Year Ahead

Lord as we step into the year ahead
You alone know the challenges around every bend
Give us strength day by day when problems we meet
Thank You for allowing us to lay problems at Your Feet
Thank You for Your strength in the years gone by
Thank You for being the One on whom we can rely!

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My grace is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in weakness.

Corinthians 12 v 9

*Cast your cares upon the Lord and He will sustain you;
he will never let the righteous fall.*

Psalms 55 v 22

Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

1 Peter 5 v 7

Time a Precious Gift

Every new minute, new hour, new day and New Year
is a precious gift from God for those who reside here
An invaluable gift to use and priceless a gift to share
with folks we meet and with those for whom we care.

If used to full potential there is much we can do
to alleviate the burdens of more than a few
But because it is so easy to fritter precious time away
we need to remember we will give an account one day.

Time, we can never recapture no matter how we try
time is a gift that passes so, so swiftly by
How we ought to take note and really appreciate
our God given time before it's too late.

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The Futility of Grumbling

If we grumble and grouse, if we murmur and complain
it doesn't change a thing all still stays the same.
We will only become troubled and grieved in our souls
and all who meet us in life will seek escape holes.

Most people have enough troubles and trials of their own
without listening to us spouting our troubles, moans and groans.
If we then complain about strangers, friends or foes
our hearers will leave wondering if their confidences too will flow.

Will those who hear *of* us leave feeling depressed;
thinking if they were to meet us: their lives too would be stressed?
What a difference it makes if we are pleasant, helpful and kind
ever seeking to alleviate others with problems of body, soul or mind.

We ourselves will know more peace, pleasure and joy each day
if we are loving, kind and gentle with those who pass our way.
So let us aim to cease grumbling; rather count our blessings each day;
then this world will be a better place because we have passed this way.

A Day to Remember

The 17th of May 2011

was a day within Ireland that will be remembered.

It was the first time Queen Elizabeth II or any British Monarch set foot in the Irish Republic since the time of the rebellion.

There is no doubt it was a day when history was made; hands in friendship were shaken, commemorative wreaths were laid.

A day for healing of wounds: raw, deep and sore;

please God this will be the first day of many, many more.

I was reminded: in the Lord's Prayer there is just one condition, we must forgive others if we are to be forgiven.

Words and actions of love can do so, so much more than words of bitterness and hatred that can hurt to the core.

Hurtful actions and bitter feelings not only hurt others they rebound on ourselves and cause trouble and bother.

So let us remember to reach out the hand of forgiveness, love, care to all who have hurt us so that wounds can heal and repair.

Because hurts can go deep: like painful, ugly cancer sores that require radiotherapy, chemotherapy and much, much more

Physical health may be restored under a caring medical team that work skilfully and tirelessly aided by One unseen.

He, our God is ever available to help you and me repair relationships that have been fractured for many a year.

Let us now pray that with God's help Ireland will never, ever again have wounds that cause heartache, bitterness, sorrow and pain.

The Visit to Ireland of “President Barack Obama”

Ireland is again proudly hosting a person of renown
The President of the United States is the dignity who has come to town.
Barack Obama and his wife travelled with their entourage in tow,
they in the Presidential Jet, plus five helicopters and more.
He has come to strengthen links with folk on the Emerald Isle
unfortunately he cannot stay long, he will only be here a while.
It is hoped his visit will help build Ireland’s links with the USA
political, cultural and economic links will benefit our countries we pray.
He has already met our President, our Taoiseach, dignitaries and more,
he has now come to visit the seat of his ancient ancestral home.
Many residents are excited that he has come to town
Moneygall is such a small, small village to host a person of renown.
Dulux generously donated paint, thousands of gallons and more
to make Moneygall presentable for this welcome visitor to our shore.
Everything now looks perfect, everything now looks great,
festooned with flowers and flags to welcome this worthy head of state.
He travelled either by helicopter or gleaming limousine
surrounded by bodyguards whose attention to detail was plain to be seen.
No stone was left unturned to ensure President Obama’s security,
it was paramount that this visit would not cause a needless tear.
This has been an historical week for the inhabitants of our land
The Queen’s visit, Garret Fitzgerald’s death, and the visit of “Obama”
I wonder will the same excitement welcome Jesus Christ the King of Kings,
He has promised to return to earth when by every eye He will be seen
The date of His arrival is known to God our Heavenly Father alone
We are warned to prepare for His visit, He is coming to claim His own.
He is coming for all who trust in Him who for their sin atoned
He is coming for the redeemed to take them to their heavenly home.



Autumn scene at Ards, Creeslough

New Life

Leaves fall from trees when strong winds blow
They may be carried where they don't want to go
They have no resistance - they can't fight their case
They now just become dead organic waste.

They never fall upwards - they always fall down
On the grass, on the earth causing litter around
If left untended they become rotting mud
Causing danger - pedestrians may fall with a thud.

Man is spiritually dead - the Scriptures say
Showing little resistance in temptations way
Sin drags all life down and down for sure
Soon many like the leaves will end in the sour.

Sadly sin causes heartache for folks around
Rather than lasting happiness - havoc may be found
Thankfully there is One who can give *new life*
bringing peace and joy instead of sin and strife.

His name is Christ Jesus, God's beloved Son
He came to offer this new life to everyone
Unlike leaves from the trees that rot and die
We may live forever with our God on high.



Taken from our bedroom window

Faith is the Key

As I look out of the window - behind the shed roof I see
branches covered with leaves swaying vigorously.
The person who doesn't know could be encouraged to believe
the branches are growing out of the roof with ease.
But of course the educated person who is in the know
realises the branches are attached to roots hidden below.

The branches that sway, dance, flutter and weave
are attached to roots from which they nourishment receive.

So it is with regard to the spiritual realm
New Life is received when Christ is at the helm.
For the person who doesn't know - it is impossible to see,
enlightenment is only granted - if faith is used as the key.

While pulling the curtains one morning this scene I surveyed
a vision of beauty in cloud before my eyes was displayed
It appeared God was implying there is still much we don't see
but all will be revealed if in Him we believe.

We now see through a glass darkly, is what we are told
but if we trust in the Lord Jesus heaven's glory we'll behold.

He who displayed this beautiful array of cloud in the sky
Will one day appear and call all believers neigh
Then with joy we will approach those pearly gates
Where our Saviour will confirm our eternal fate
There where joy and peace will never, ever end
We will dwell forever with our Saviour, Lord and Friend.



River Clady, Gweedore with Errigal Mountain in the background

Be Careful of the Choices You Make

Be careful how you live and of the choices you make
because we will be judged by God for Jesus sake.
Jesus loved us and gave His life to set us free
from God's judgment on sin for all eternity;
Jesus alone was without sin unlike you and me
that is why God accepted His sacrifice on Calvary's Tree.

God the Creator of more than we see or understand
laid aside His Kingly station to take on the role of man,
He allowed Himself to be born in a filthy stable one night
so He could relate to man of lowly status and plight.
He the Son of God became the servant of man
to become man's Saviour was His purpose and plan.

Jesus gave His life so "the whosoever" could go free
by the sacrifice He paid on Calvary's cruel tree.
Records hundreds; yes thousands of years before His birth
told that a Saviour, the Son of God would come to earth.
God sent Jesus because He knew there was no other way
that He could rescue sinful mankind from Judgment Day.

Salvation is now offered as a gift of God's grace,
if we acknowledge our need He will eradicate every trace.
We could never earn our salvation no matter how we try
because our righteous acts are like filthy rags in God's eyes.
No amount of suffering, sacrifice, payment or pain
will God accept in place of trust in His Son who was slain.

He tells in His Word, "If we claim to be without sin
we make Him out to be a liar and His Word has no place within,"
Take note of the significance of the small word He chooses
to relay to us the power of the words He uses.
"***If*** we confess our sin, He is faithful and just
and will forgive our sin and purify us from all unrighteousness."



Ballymastocker/Portsalon Beach taken from Portsalon with the Knockalla Mountain range in the background

He is Worthy of All Praise

There is **One** who is King of all we survey
He is worthy of all praise that comes His way
He made the mountains and He made the sea
He made all creatures - He made you and me
He is worthy of devotion, worship and praise
While residing on earth we are under His gaze
He desires we have the best that life can give
We ought to honour Him as long as we live.

Sadly our ancestors went their own selfish way
Choosing our Divine Creator's will to disobey
Foolishly they listened to the serpent's sly lie
Ignoring their God who warned they would die
To their cost they found that His Word is true
Their link was broken with the God they knew
They were embarrassed and they were ashamed
They now had no-one but themselves to blame.

In mercy their God sought them out that day
But foolishly from Him they tried to hide away
They were embarrassed, they knew sin within
But they were to find there was mercy with Him
They covered themselves with the leaves of a tree
In a manner God said, "Leaves will not satisfy me"
He slew an animal showing that blood must be shed
Promising that one day **One** would die in their stead.

We have Good News to tell because *that* day came
We give praise and glory to Jesus precious name
He the only begotten Son of our Creator and God
Allowed His blood to be shed on Calvary's sod
All who trust in His sacrifice can from sin go free
Praise God that is Good News for you and for me
So let us glorify Him while in life we have breath
because He our Saviour conquered sin and death.



The Meadows trout fishing lake on our farm

Become Fishers of Men

Jesus told His disciples to become fishers of men,
we would do well to take note and start copying them
How foolish to start fishing without taking note
of the art of fishing - from a fisherman on quote.

Fishermen must first travel to where the fish are
whether that be on foot, bicycle, aeroplane or car,
He will wait a long time until the fish comes to him
he would soon become hungry, weak, miserable and thin.

If he goes to the right place without a rod, line and bait
he will become frustrated – as for fish he'll have a wait
If he's wise he will take instruction from someone who knows
how to cast the right bait onto the water that flows.

He will quickly discover that fish are quite cute;
they will taunt and tease they won't accept the wrong bait.
Any fisherman who fishes streams, rivers or lakes
uses different bait at sea fishing haddock, cod or hake.

But the quality needed most the fisherman will find
is patience, more patience and plenty of time.
When a fish does take hold of the bait on the line
it is then the fisherman needs skill, endurance and time.

But if the fisherman has patience and is prepared to wait
he will most likely be rewarded with food on his plate
Take note apply these attributes and become fishers of men
then God will reward you and glorify them.



This fisherman's efforts were not in vain

Wise Instruction

I heard a saint of God utter these words today
and I know there is truth in what he had to say,
“Go to God for people, before you go to people for God,”
was the wise instruction of this dear man of God.

“Pray, pray and pray some more,
pray until your tears are hitting the floor,
Pray from a heart that is broken for man
then God will reward you as only He can.”

God loves man more than you'll ever know,
man was God's special creation on earth below,
So it is God's desire and ultimate plan
to save the precious souls of sinful man.

Jesus has now gone to prepare a mansion on high
for all who will trust Him by and by,
It is up to each person including you and me
whether we accept His gift of salvation that's free.

Yet, because God is a God of ultimate love
he will never force His divine will on us from above,
But it is His purpose, plan, aim and desire
to rescue mankind from sin and hell fire.

Amazingly, God choose us to share His Good News
with fellow human beings whether Gentiles or Jews,
He could do it Himself - but that was not His plan
He gives us the privilege of sharing salvation with man.



The Harry Blaney Bridge - Linking Fanad and Carrigart

Faith, Love and Obedience

Faith is the link that bridges the span
between our righteous God and sinful man;
Love is the bond that holds faith in place
and secures Eternal Life by God's grace;
Obedience is the gel that seals the union
between Christ and His followers in sweet communion.

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*For it is by grace you have been saved
through faith – and this not of yourselves,
it is the gift of God – not of works, so that
no-one can boast.*

Ephesians 2 v 5



Reflection on water, Enniskillen

Only a fool would refuse God's Gifts

Grace, mercy and favour
are gifts we receive in Him,
Love, peace and joy
we receive in exchange for sin,
New Life in the Spirit
replaces spiritual death,
Resurrection is guaranteed
promising Eternal Life and rest.
Who could refuse such gifts
from the gracious hand of God?
Only a fool would decline this offer
implying God is a fraud.

The fool says in his heart there is no God.

Psalm 14 v 1

Jesus Christ the Son of God

Jesus Christ the Son of God is my Redeemer, Lord and King;
He alone could cleanse my soul and make me clean within;
He is my guiding light, my strength from day to day;
My shelter in the storms of life when trials come my way.

He gives joy, peace and purpose deep within my soul;
He is my Saviour, Friend and Comforter - His presence makes me whole.
He is my Shield and Anchor, the Rock on which I stand;
What a privilege it is to be led by His loving Divine Hand.

He is the Living Water that quenches every thirst,
He can cleanse clean as crystal the life of the very worst;
He is The Way, The Truth, The Life, - God's remedy for sin;
All who trust in simple faith will one day dwell in heaven with Him

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us,
for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."*

Galatians 3 v 13

*In Your unfailing love You will lead the people You have redeemed.
In Your strength You will guide them to Your holy dwelling.*

Exodus 15 v 13

Lord, I in faith surrender

Lord I in faith surrender I yield my all to Thee;
Thanking You for Redeeming Grace that from sin has set me free.

Please lead me Lord and guide me to do Your will each day;
You alone know the way ahead: give me strength to walk Your Way.

Thank You for Your precious Word; that Word of truth and love;
Thank You for Your Promise to direct me from above.

Thank You for Your Spirit that leads and guides and keeps;
Thank You for reminding me that You never, *never* sleep.

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But when the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.

John 16 v 13

The Blood of the Lamb

No amount of washing could dislodge the grime
that was built up over the years within this heart of mine.

Grime could only be cleansed by the blood of the Lamb
Who was sacrificed on Calvary for wretched, sinful man.

Thankfully His precious blood could cleanse white as snow
and leave me fit for heaven: God's Word clearly says so.

*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that
you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down from your
forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish of
defect.*

1 Peter 1 - 18 & 19

*Come now and let us reason together, says the Lord. "Though your sins are
like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as
crimson they shall be like wool."*

Isaiah 1 v 18

God Made Salvation Simple

I am glad salvation is simple, as simple as can be;
my blessed Lord and Saviour knew it had to be for me.

God deliberately made it simple so that even a child can know
that by putting their trust in Jesus they too can heavenward go.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son
that whosoever believes in Him should one day dwell with Him.”

He knew that because we were sinful we had no power to save ourselves;
that is why He in love and mercy sent Jesus to rescue us from Hell.

Friend I don't know what you think but that sounds like Good News to me;
too good to keep to ourselves so let us share it that others too may see.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that
whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For
God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to
save the world through Him.*

John 3 v's 16 & 17

Only Possible In Him

Grace, describes undeserved favour received from God above by a hell deserving sinner from God who has a heart of love.

Redemption, describes being plucked from before God's judgement seat by a righteous Redeemer who died to cause Satan defeat.

Righteousness, describes living in obedience to God above being strengthened by His Spirit who enables us in love.

Justification, describes how God cleanses from all sin the vilest offender who puts their trust in Him.

Sanctification, describes being made holy; set apart by God above to carry out His will on earth supported by His strength and love.

Help Me Dear Lord

Help me dear Lord in all that I do
to be more loving, helpful and kind like You,
Help me to reach out to those in need
regardless of colour, race or creed.

Please Help Me Father

God our heavenly Father
please help me now I pray:
Give me strength to do Your Will
to-day and every day.



Picturesque Enniskillen

I Believe in God, because!

I believe in God because I experience His loving care;
His gentle touch upon my life assures me He is there.
I hear His gentle whisper in my ear from time to time;
That gentle soothing, loving voice that says put your hand in mine.
His tender touch confirms to me that I am safe with Him;
I need not fear the way ahead, the way is clear to Him.
His strength gives confidence when I am feeling low;
it is evident He knows the way as we travel to and fro.
“I will never leave you or forsake you,” are words I hear Him say.
What a blessing to have a friend like Him to rely on come what may.
“My grace is sufficient for you,” this too I hear many a day
His strength is made perfect in weakness-
I have proved while traveling life’s way.
He promises when I am weary that He will give me rest;
I know in having a friend like Him, I am truly, truly blessed.

“See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.”

Isaiah 49:16

“My grace is sufficient for you my strength is made perfect in weakness”

2nd Corinthians 12:9

“Come unto me all ye who are weary and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28



McGowan's beautiful thatched cottage near Rossnakill

Whitewash Covers Blemishes

Whitewash covers blemishes so that walls look cleansed and clean,
while blemishes lurk underneath disguised, hidden, unseen.

Now the look of perfection makes the onlooker stand beguiled,
the wall looks white and beautiful that once looked soiled, defiled.

This reminds me of my soul when I tried to live for God,
with righteous acts and sacrifices while at heart I was a fraud.

I believed in God the Father and in Jesus Christ His Son
but I did not realise I was a sinner who needed to be saved by Him.

Only Jesus Christ our Saviour can cleanse from sin and dross
if we trust in His atoning sacrifice that He bore on Calvary's cross.

All our righteous acts and sacrifices God says are as filthy rags,
we are clearly told in Scripture, our sin we can not disguise.

Thankfully the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse from every sin
and purify the repentant sinner who seeks forgiveness from Him.

*All of us have become like one who is unclean and all
our righteous acts are like filthy rags.*

Isaiah 64 v 6

The Only Saviour

If Jesus the only Saviour can cleanse from sin and shame
Then we have a right to spread the news and give the glory to His name.

Many hearts are sad and burdened, many lives are in distress.
Many, many people live in fear that for them there is no redress.

But thankfully we have GOOD NEWS because Jesus died for all
He invites us to come in faith and trust, **He** can save all who on Him call.

He doesn't then give a mandate to live any way we choose
Rather He asks us to turn from sin lest we our salvation loose.

We are called to be ambassadors of the King of all the earth
We are called to represent Him while in our lungs we have breath.

Ambassadors hold high office, they are called to be loyal and true
God demands that His ambassadors honour Him in all they do.

*“Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven
given to men by which we must be saved.”*

Acts 4 v 12

*Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. Christ Jesus came
into the world to save sinners.*

1 Timothy 1 v 15

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His
appeal through us.*

2 Corinthians 5 v 20

I am His and He is Mine

We have a right to say mine when something belongs to us,
whether it is a home, a farm, a book or a purse.

Many can say, *my* husband, *my* wife, *my* daughter, *my* son.
We can only claim them as ours if to us they belong.

But, can we say like the shepherd King David of old,
“The Lord is *my* shepherd” because we are part of His fold?

On Judgment Day the Heavenly Shepherd to many will say,
“Depart from me I know you not: *you* are not one of my flock.”

So be wise, trust Jesus the good Shepherd while there is time,
He longs to become your Shepherd just as He became mine.

There is no time for dallying, no time for delay,
He can call you or me at any time night or day.

Trust Jesus, *then* you too can say, “I am His - He is mine,
I *know*, I will dwell in heaven with Him, in His good time.”

*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me –
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father –
and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

John 10 verses 14 & 15



Kerrykeel Road, near old Milford Bakery

Lead and Direct Me

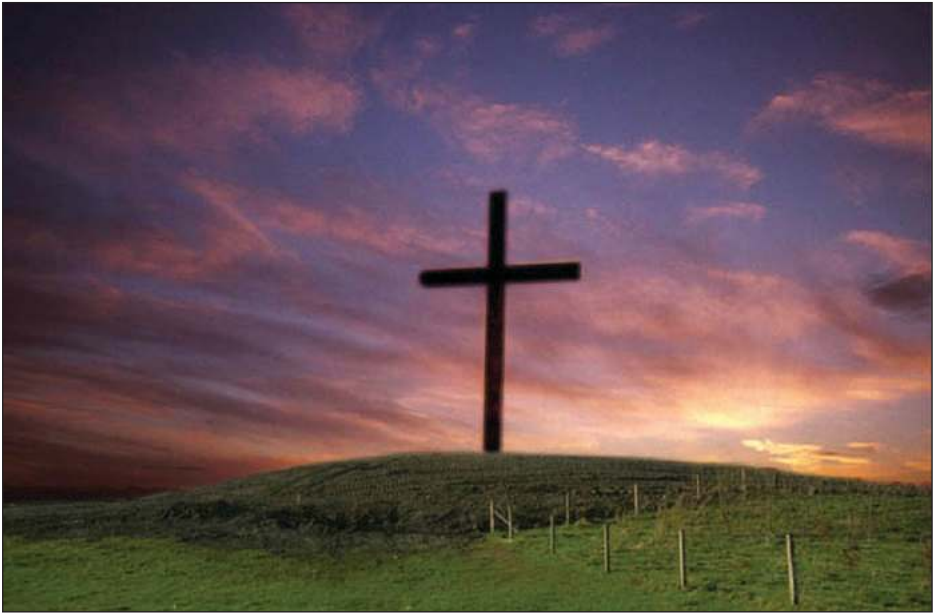
Lead and direct me dear Saviour I pray
I want Your divine hand to guide me today
Guide my thinking, my actions and my speech
Remind me to thank You for my earthly needs.

Strengthen me dear Lord for the road ahead,
You know the obstacles around every bend
Give strength to travel every step of the way
Help me to serve You until that final day.

Keep me from ought that would cause me to stray
Strengthen me when tempted to go my own way
Enable me to become like my Saviour and Lord
Remind me that I'll give an account in heaven above.

*In Your unfailing love You will lead the people You have redeemed.
In Your strength You will guide them to Your holy dwelling.*

Exodus 15 v 13



He Paid the Price

It was on the cross of Calvary
that Jesus died to set me free
It was there He paid the price for sin;
the debt I owed was placed on Him.

Within my heart I sing His praise
I'll glorify Him all my days
I owed a debt I could not pay
With thanks to Him my voice I'll raise.

My Saviour bore my sin and shame
Now I want to praise His name
I thank Him for His cleansing power
My heart shall praise Him hour by hour.

He loosed the curse of sin and death.
I'll honour Him while I have breath
He gave me joy, He gave me peace
My song of praise shall never cease.

*For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is
with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.
As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."*

Romans 10 v 10 & 11

He Willingly Gave His Life For Us

Ere Jesus died on the cross He was heard to say
“It is finished,” What a wonderful day
He had completed the task that He had begun
He had procured salvation for everyone

It is often by His followers stated thus
“He willingly gave His life for us,”
He fulfilled His Father’s divine plan
In order to save sinful man

The law demanded that blood be shed
Blood of a spotless Lamb as God’s Word said
That is why He the spotless Lamb of God
Allowed His blood to be shed on Calvary’s sod

When the soldiers pierced His riven side
Ere our Saviour hung His head and died
What man meant for evil, God allowed for good!
He was fulfilling prophesy as only He could.

Now all who repent and trust in God’s Son
Are cleansed of sin, yes each and every one
They are then adopted into the family of God
and guaranteed a home when they leave earth’s sod.

Precious Saviour

Precious Saviour, Lord and King
praise and honor to You we bring,
let us all with one accord
praise You now our living Lord.

We want to lift Your name on high:
we want our praise to fill the sky:
we want everyone to know
the reason why we love You so.

You cleansed our souls of sin and dross:
You took our place on Calvary's cross:
You gave us peace instead of shame:
this is why we praise Your name.

By Your grace You set us free:
You gave us joy and victory:
You conquered death, You beat the foe:
this is why we love You so.

Because You intercede on high
now we mortals may venture nigh,
To make our wants and wishes known
before our Heavenly Father's throne

Mountaintop and Valley Experiences

When landscape is flat it can be disinteresting, plain
there can be little to stir the emotions, all looks the same
What a difference it makes when there are valleys and hills
at the sight of such beauty many a sad heart thrills.
Earthly beauty is enhanced if there is water to view
whether it be rivers, lakes, waterfalls or the sea of blue
Lights of a town in the valley are now in my sight
what a delight to see such beauty on any dark night.
Lights sparkle like diamonds on a black velvet gown
at this vantage point it is hard to believe there are problems on the ground.
Yet there is pain and suffering, there is heartache and shame
thankfully there is also happiness and joy and some praising God's name
I am reminded as in nature, so in the spiritual realm
we will experience mountains and valleys even with God at the helm.
I believe God in His wisdom allows life so to be
so that He can strengthen our faith as we walk with Him daily.
If we never experience trials and troubles in the valley below
we will be less likely to appreciate the mountaintop as we heavenward go.
So when we encounter problems and pain as we travel life's way
let us never forget God has promised to be our strength day after day.

“I will never leave you or forsake you.”

Joshua 1 v 5

Words

Words are precious, words are great.

words can help relationships create.

Words of encouragement, words of praise,
can boost the downhearted and their hopes raise.

Words of kindness, words of love
can make hearts soar on clouds above.

Words of sincerity, words of trust
can raise the downtrodden from pits of dust.

Words of friendship, words of hope
can strengthen the feeble and help them cope.

In wisdom let us choose with care
the words we speak to people everywhere,
Because words *can* hurt and words can do
more harm than anything spoken of hitherto.

Some words cause sores that never heal,
deep sores that many, many hearts conceal.
God's Word says the thing impossible to do
is bridle the tongue of me and you.

So let us with thought, consideration and care
use this ability that has been given us to share.

My uncle's advice was, count to ten
before you utter words that might condemn.

It is up to You and Me

It is up to me to let you see
the joy I have found in Him
It is up to me to let you see
the peace He has given within
It is up to me to let you see
you too God's gift can know
Plus "new life" in the Spirit
and His power while here below.

It is up to you what you want to do
to refuse or to receive
It is up to you what you want to do
to reject or to believe
It's up to you what you want to do
with the gift of grace that's free:
Accept and you will spend eternity
in heaven praising God with me.

What an Invitation

“Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened
and I will give you rest”

What wonderful words for anyone to hear
when they are feeling weary and distressed

Take note; the invitation is open

Jesus invites all to come

He doesn't distinguish on age, creed or class
and it doesn't matter where we are from

All He asks us to note is that it is to “Him” we must go
'cause He alone can offer true rest for the soul

Anyone who accepts His wonderful offer of grace
will find their soul blessed as they seek Him face to face

They can also know that their sins are forgiven
they are then guaranteed an eternal home in heaven
So why would anyone reject this free offer of grace
when Jesus so kindly says, “Come.”

*“Come to me, all you who are weary
and burdened and I will give you rest”*

Matthew 11 v 28

Salvation is about Trusting

I have made a wonderful discovery; I will share it with you if I may; salvation is not about ceremonies, rituals, performance or display.

Salvation is about trusting in God, the Father, the Spirit and Son; trusting in the One who made us to have a relationship with Him.

How God must have been saddened when His created went astray by deliberately ignoring His warning and spiritually dying that day.

Disobedience affected our forebears through succeeding generations until God sent His only Son to once again re-establish relations.

God's Son bore sins penalty by His sinless death upon the cross satisfying the demand that only *sinless* blood could redeem the lost.

Ere Jesus returned to heaven He said a Comforter would come He would indwell individuals who had been redeemed from sin.

Now all God asks is that we trust in Him, our God the Three in One and worship, love and serve Him, the Almighty, Holy One.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3 v's 5 & 6

The Greatest Gift Ever!

The greatest gift ever heard of in history has been offered to mankind far and near
Many with gratitude accept this offer when the Good News of this gift they hear.

Sadly many people as yet have no knowledge of this priceless gem that is rare
Yet nothing has been spoken of more often by more people in more places year on year.

This gift will never spoil, fade or perish - it will never devalue or disintegrate
Yet many dismiss this amazing offer - with *this* Giver they don't want to associate.

God freely offers the amazing gift of salvation, He offers man cleansing from sin
He offers the gift of forgiveness to all who put their faith and their trust in Him

God offers a mortgage free mansion in a place of beauty beyond compare
where the redeemed will dwell forever with Him who has gone this place to prepare.

This is a place of eternal rapture where the streets are paved with gold
There, we will dwell with our Saviour and find rest for our bodies and souls.

This is a place of no pain or sickness - a place of no heartache or loss
A place of no fighting or enmity - all wrongdoing was paid for on the cross.

It was paid for by our loving Saviour - Jesus Christ the divine Son of God
He willingly sacrificed His sinless life to redeem sinful man on earth's sod.

*The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal
life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 7 v 23

“What is Marriage?”

“What is marriage I hear you say?”

I will try to explain it to you if I may.

Love is when your heart skips a beat
as you see your loved one walk down the street,

Marriage is when you then can say
we belong to each other come what may.

Marriage is when before God you vow
to cherish this person you are pledged to now
Marriage is when you see your partner-warts and all
yet still love them anyway, despite all.

Marriage is when you are willing to do
whatever it takes to help the other through.

Marriage is when you personal pleasures forego
in order your loved ones happiness to know.

Marriage is when in the midst of people around
your eyes do not rest until your loved one is found.

Marriage is when you are willing to forsake
everything for your loved ones sake.

Marriage, was instituted by our God above
to consummate the union between two people in love.

Your marriage I pray will be happy and long
strengthened day by day by love that grows strong.

You have built your home with timber, bricks, mortar and sand
I pray you will now build your marriage as God has planned.



Good Relationships are Precious

Good relationships are precious, good relationships are great
Good relationships within families are something to celebrate
It is great to have a sibling to whom we can tell
our innermost feelings because they know us so well
It is great to have someone in whom we can confide
someone who understands how we are feeling inside
It is great to have good memories to relive and to recall
with someone who understands because they remember all
Very, very, *very* few people fully understand
exactly where we are coming from yet don't judge us out of hand.
These relationships are special, these relationships are rare
how we ought to value relationships built on love and care
Time passes quickly, more quickly than we know
If we listen to the daily news we know that this is so
So while partings can be painful when memories have been great
Partings are sadder still when there are no fond memories to commemorate
While we ought to treasure our loved ones we must be prepared to let them go
'cause sooner or later all of us will leave this world below
We need to be prepared for parting for we know the time will come
When each and every one of us to leave our earthly home
Sometimes that call comes suddenly at a time we least expect
It is natural to feel sad and lonely and for a time some may even their God reject
How important it is to remember that our Heavenly Father is only a prayer away
He understands our grief because He too was grieved one day
He the One who created families understands how we feel
He sent His only Son to earth - man's fallen state to heal.
God sent His only Son fully knowing that one day He must die
If sinful man was to be saved and one day dwell with Him on high
Because this is so there is good news for you and me
If we and our loved ones trust in Jesus we will be reunited eternally
So while we miss our loved ones we should never be in despair
But live our lives for Jesus trusting that again we will be reunited there.



Love grows sweeter day by day
as we journey together on life's pathway.
Love grows stronger as we walk hand in hand
supporting each other as our Creator planned
Love gets more meaningful as trust grows
by helping each other through troubles and woes.
Love endures trials, heartache and pain
when we depend on each other much is gained.

A Pertinent Question

You have asked me a question and I have really got to say
it is a quite pertinent question to be asked on any day
You asked me why I married you? *Well*, whatever can I say
was it your wit, your ability, your looks
or the glimpse of that bank book that you swiftly put away?
No wonder I was dreaming as my mind began to soar
until I landed back to earth with both feet firmly on the floor.
Seriously, it was your gentleness, your kindness and your love
your patience and perseverance and your trust in God above.
Can I say I haven't been disappointed as we have traveled on life's way,
rather blessed, helped, strengthened and encouraged
as together we have walked day after passing by day.



Reflected Memories

When walking down the street I was quite amazed to see
an old couple reflected in a mirror where a young couple used to be.

How is that even possible – however can it be
sure it was only yesterday that you were courting me.

We were only teenagers – we were in our prime
we dated for a few short years, then wed, hands and hearts entwined.

Life was blessed and busy with children on the way
helping and encouraging each other - forty plus years but as a day.

Now the children are grown - grandchildren on the way
adding to our memory store day after passing day.
Many events, memories and thoughts in life's treasure trove
Stored for us to reminisce on as we travel this world o'er

A case of mistaken identity was the reflection that I did see
But the reflected elderly couple created thoughts of you and me
There, I was swiftly reminded that although life is fleeting fast
We will have much to thank God for until we are united with Him at last.

God's Wedding Banquet

Jealousy, envy, bitterness and pride
selfishness, dishonesty and more more beside
are traits of sinfulness in the heart of man
yet God loves us anyway as only He can.

Unbelievably God invites us all to come
to His prepared banquet - He has excluded none.
God instructs His servants to travel far and wide
“Issue my invitation that none may be left outside”

Harken to His bidding - come enter while you may,
soon the day of grace will pass then you will be turned away.
No-one can enter God's feast unless clad by Him
in garments white and gleaming cleansed from every stain of sin.

We cannot come on our terms - all must trust in Him
Jesus, gave His life as man's remedy for sin
God accepts as kin - all who trust His risen Son
no-one will regret accepting - this banquet will be second to none.

*Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean was given her to
wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)*

Revelation 19 v 7 & 8

Our Family

We have a great, great family;
We have watched them one by one
as they pursued lives destiny
with pride we urged them on.

They have their own personalities;
They differ in many ways;
They are bound together inextricably
under our constant family gaze.

They are gentle, kind and generous;
Hard working, good and true;
Helpful, wise and faithful,
Who could have wished for more – could you?

They are thoughtful and dependable;
Considerate and loving too
and some are so funny and witty
they could brighten any life that's blue.

Yet they are so, so independent
in everything they do
that they make us so, so proud
every time they see problems through.

Congratulations! A Baby Boy

Congratulations come your way today

As we celebrate the arrival of your new baby

May his life be blessed in every way!

May God be his guide from day to day!

May he know contentment, happiness, peace and joy!

May *your* lives too be blessed by your baby boy

As he grows from baby, to boy, to man

May he seek God's divine, saving, guiding hand!

May his life be a blessing every step of the way!

May he be an encouragement day after day!

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6: 24, 25 & 26

Words of Appreciation

When I was in hospital I was acutely aware
of the many, many friends who were remembering me in prayer
The peace in my soul was beyond expectation
as I waited in theatre for the surgeon's intervention

Again my blessed Saviour kept His promise to me,
I will never leave or forsake you wherever you may be
He my healer and friend sticks closer than a brother
through times of temptation, trial, trouble or bother.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the surgeon, anaesthetists, nurses, and staff
who carefully paid attention to every detail to the last,
They carried out their duties with gentle, tender, loving care,
May God continue to bless all as they seek to help other patients there.



Letterkenny General Hospital

We take So Much for Granted

We take so much for granted day after day
health, strength, relationships, work and play
There is little we can do about this and that
If we stop to consider it we know that this is a fact
Yet, because life can be so busy hour after hour
we are apt to believe we hold life within our power
If we are wise we will stop to consider and note
that our Creator is worthy of our appreciation vote
It is He who sustains us hour after hour
He holds the keys to our life within His power
It is He who causes our blood to flow
our heart to beat and our hair to grow
We ourselves are powerless to remake or renew
any areas within us that needs attending too
But we are thankful God has called woman and man
to take on caring roles as was His plan
We give thanks for doctors, nurses and scientists too
who take on the role of caring for me and you
We give thanks for their patience, kindness and skill,
may they all seek His leading, guiding and sustaining will
We know there is only so much doctor and nurses can do
to bring healing and health to me and you
Ultimately, healing is in the hands of God
who holds our lives in His power while we live on earth's sod.

The New Year Hospital Stay, 2011

The New Year again saw a hospital stay
where I was looked after in a wonderful way
by doctors, nurses and hospital staff
whose care I can say was just first class
Their attention to detail every day
could not have been surpassed in any way
They were gentle, considerate, courteous and kind
they had the good of the patient ever in mind
May they be justly rewarded for what they do
I know their efforts are appreciated by more than a few.

A big, “Thank You”

Despite the present recession
I have really got to say
The staff in the Gynaecology Ward
could not have been better in any way
They could not have been more helpful
More considerate, more kind,
Nothing was too much trouble
The good of patients was ever in their mind
They were courteous and pleasant
by night and by day
The harmony between them
was not faked in any way
Because that was the case
what else can I say:
Than THANK YOU for your kindness
during my stay.

Lord, You Aim to Teach

Lord through sickness, sadness, grief and pain,
I believe You have much to teach us again and again;
Is it Your aim to teach man that You want control
of our minds, our bodies, our hearts and our souls?

Lord You know we are stubborn, proud and vain;
We think we know best – to show weakness is shame;
We are so independent – we try to appear tough
Yet Lord I believe it is Your purpose to call our bluff.

You know at heart we are weak and frail;
Many succumb to temptation and some end up in jail;
We can be thoughtless, selfish and greedy too;
some lying or stealing their aims to pursue.

When we try to be good we so often fail
Because of our actions relationships derail;
By ourselves we don't have the ability to do
what is necessary to correct our bias with You.

Your Word, it explains why You sent Your Son
He came as Redeeming Substitute for everyone
I thank You dear Lord that now I can see
Why He gave His life on Calvary's tree.

I know that You are a holy, righteous God
You cannot condone our life of sin and fraud
For Your gift of forgiveness now I pray
Please make me pure and give me peace today.

I gladly accept Salvation because I can and I may
Thank You for this amazing gift that has been offered today
This gift of forgiveness, adoption and cleansing from sin
You offered through Jesus, thanks and praise now goes to Him.

God arms His children for Battle

If a sinner trusts in Jesus as Saviour and Lord
God will forgive them and issue a heavenly reward
Their burdened souls He will cleanse of sin and shame
because they have trusted in Jesus precious name.

They will then be adopted into the family of God
and accepted as kin to Jesus Christ their Lord
They will now be given a new song to sing
a song of praise to their Saviour, Lord and King.

Some may then realise they have a struggle within
The devil won't be happy they are cleansed of sin
He has been known to whisper His subtle sly lie
"God cannot save and there is no heaven on high."

If they're wise they will put on the whole armour of God
provided for them by their heavenly Father above
God knew spiritual warfare they will soon face
so He promised His strength when trials they face.

The helmet of salvation He gives to place on their head
they are now covered by the blood of their Saviour who bled
The breastplate of righteousness replaces their burden of sin
He promises to give them spiritual strength within.

He instructs them to wear the shoes of the gospel of peace
"I will enable you to walk by the strength of my grace."
He also provides the protective shield of faith
Given to deflect the fiery darts they will face.

Because souls are precious to God He provides a way
so His children can protect themselves when tempted to stray
He in mercy has given His own precious written Word
If they're wise they will learn to use this sword of God.

No-one has anything to loose but a lot to gain
if they put their trust in Jesus Christ's precious, holy name
God accepts all believers as brothers and sisters in Him
Praise should continually fill hearts cleansed of sin.

Wounds of the Heart

Wounds of the heart may take time to heal
The wounds ragged edges may be hard to conceal
For a time the nerves too may be frazzled and frayed
God's healing touch of love needs to be displayed
The area around will be tender to touch
For tears to surface - it may not take much.
Treat raw wounds with gentleness and care
Apply the healing balm of God's Spirit there
Protect from contamination, injury and grime
This wound should heal without infection given time.

*He (God) heals the broken-hearted
and binds up their wounds.*

Psalm 147 v 3

Take Heed Weary Soul

Jesus said, “Come unto me all you who are weary and I will give you rest”.
This is something folks need to hear because many souls are stressed.
Many hearts are heavy, many heads are sore,
Many feet are like lead, many don’t know which way to go.
Many don’t know where to turn; or whom to turn to;
Many are living in fear of the future; death is something they dread to view.
Yet Jesus said, “I have come that you might have life and have it to the full.”
Take heed if you are wise weary soul, give Him access and let Him rule
When Jesus spoke of life - He spoke of life for now and eternity too
He the Eternal Son of God can offer Eternal Life to you.
Jesus alone is life’s answer; He can fill that gap within.
He the resurrected spotless One can cleanse from every trace of sin.
“Let not your heart be troubled, trust in God, trust also in me.”
Are the soothing words He said to those who questioned eternity.
So why not take Him at His word and trust in His loving care
He has never broken a promise, so I hope in heaven I will meet you there.

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my
Father’s house there many room; if it were not so I would have told you,
I will come back and take you to be with me”.*

John 14 v 1



Harvest display, Fannet Presbyterian Church, Kerrykeel

Lord, we have So Much to Thank “You” for

Lord, we have so much to thank You for every passing day
For health, strength, happiness and food to keep hunger at bay.
Thank You for our senses of hearing, sight, taste, touch, smell,
Plus the gifts of speech and feelings that assure us that all is well.
We thank You for emotions of fear, love and joy,
Fear causes us to be careful of dangers that can destroy
Love can cause our hearts to burst with emotions that overwhelm
While joy makes us elated and reach a higher realm.
We thank You for redemption – that gift of grace that’s free
Purchased by Your Beloved Son who died on Calvary;
We thank You for reminding us why Jesus came to earth
He came to save sinful man - man was powerless to save himself,
Many reject His offer of forgiveness - forgiveness that is free,
Surely they cannot have considered the consequences of rejection fully,
The consequences of rejection are too awful to contemplate
So I pray all will accept Your offer before its too late
We thank You for our country, our families and our friends
So many and varied blessings You daily to us extend.
We ought to continually thank You until we reach life’s journeys end
For the countless abundance of blessings You daily from heaven send;
Yet Lord! We are mindful of those who are in great need
Those without food and shelter, for them the basics of life we plead.
Lord, You continually remind us of Your power from day to day
You sustain and maintain our universe yet we neglect You many a day.
We couldn’t grow a blade of grass or create the food we eat
Forgive us for being selfish, greedy and inconsiderate.
You remind us of Your power by sending torrent, storm and flood
Man is reminded of his need of You when treasures are drenched in mud
Many are in this situation Lord and today for them we pray
Give all the grace and strength to cope with trials come what may
We have been reminded of all You so richly on us bestow
Now help us to share with others while we dwell on this earth below.



Portnaling Beach near Ballywhoriskey, Fanad.

I Don't Know What You Think

I don't know what you think but it seems clear to me
There has got to be more to this life than we see.
Many think of nothing but work day after day
Working and sleeping their life away
Taking little time for relaxation and rest
Never thinking of God who wishes their souls to bless.
While others I feel fritter their lives away
Not wishing to do much but rest and play.
Never seeming to think that life soon passes by
And we will then give an account to God on high.
While they continually relax and precious time waste
They expect others to come to their aid with haste.
Groaning and complaining if their needs are not met
In record time and to their standards set.
I believe many live their lives hoping all will be well
When they end this life they won't end up in hell.
That is like expecting dinner to arrive on the plate
Without someone taking time the meal to create.
Every creation on earth had a purpose and plan
To enhance the life and welfare of woman and man.
We as humans do well to take note and remember
God created us to glorify and enjoy Him forever
We would be wise to aim this purpose to endeavor,
We know this is impossible in our sinful state however
We must trust for salvation in Jesus Christ, God's Son
If we want to spend eternity in heaven with Him.

Heed God's Promises of Blessing

In these days of recession please listen my dear
to what the Word of God has to say in your ear
First honour the Lord from His provision to you
from all of the blessing which He has endued
He promises your vats will be full to the brim
with plenteous blessings outpoured from Him.
So withhold not your wealth, your crops or time;
God alone holds the keys to your life and mine.

*Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your
crops; you're your barns will be filled to overflowing and your vats
will brim over with new wine.*

Proverbs 3 v 9 & 10

Possessions

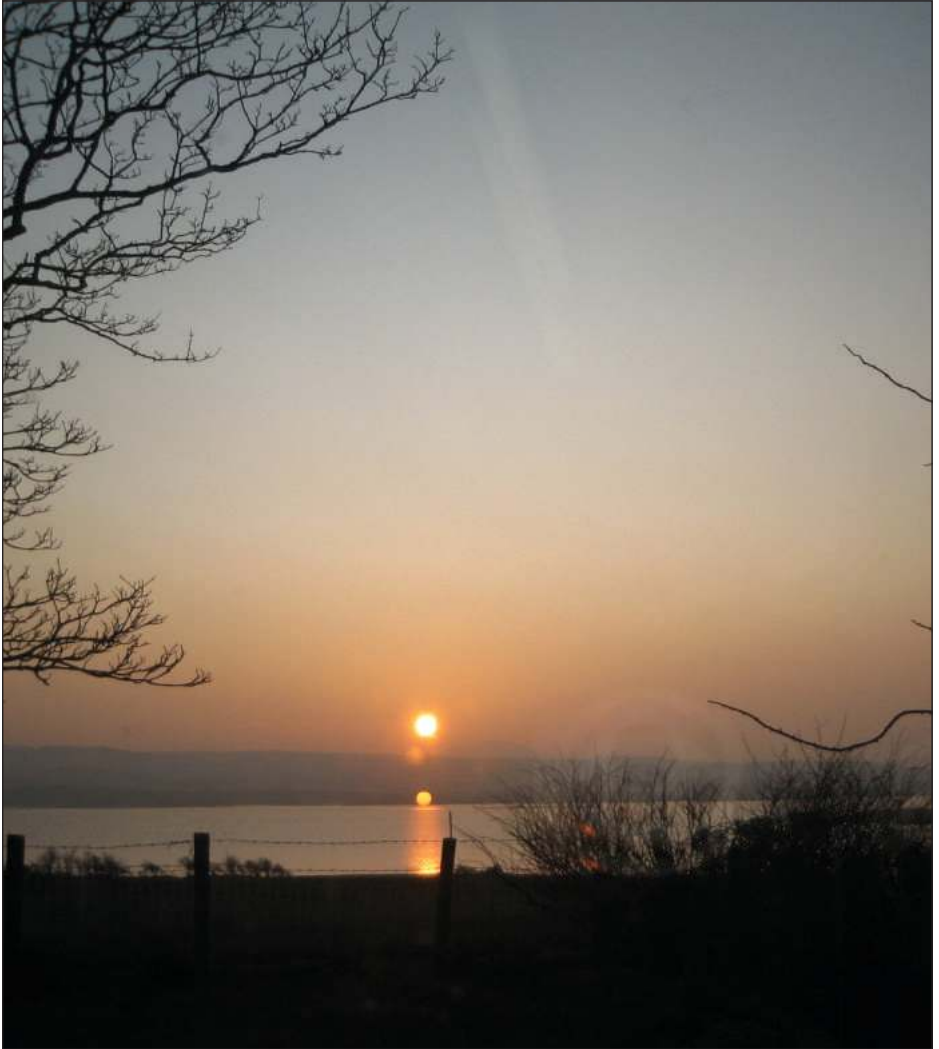
Possessions are like boomerangs
shaped thus so all can see
The more we give the more we get
as God promised you and me.

Freely you have received, freely give.

Matthew 10 v 8

*Give and it will be given unto you. A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.*

Luke 6 v 38



Golden sunset over Mulroy taken from our kitchen window

The One Appointment We All Must Keep

There is one appointment we all must keep
whether rich or poor there is no escape
God tells us it is appointed unto man once to die
Death is one certainty on which every newborn can rely
God also then goes on to say
for man there will be a Judgment Day.
Is it any wonder man tries at all cost to dismiss
this unwelcome thought from his life of “bliss”
The rich may beg, barter, bully or bribe
but there will come a day when they will leave all aside
No amount of money or threats will buy their way
out of meeting with God on Judgment Day
Many may argue, grumble, plead or defy
but when God calls man from earth, man must draw neigh.
Others will try as they may to dismiss this fact
but to change God’s mind is a skill man lacks
He may scream and shout, he may curse and yell
but his antics will only confirm God’s judgment of hell.
Thankfully for mankind there is Good News to tell
make sure you listen and listen well
God gives us a choice as to where we may dwell
this Good News God asks His followers to go tell
He says, “ Tell all mankind that I have provided a way
whereby they can dwell with Me in Heaven one day.”
God the Father sent His Son to die on the tree
so that all who trust Him can from sin’s judgment go free
This pardon has been on offer for over two thousand years
as promised all who have accepted have been relieved of their fears
Instead, with love, joy and peace their souls have been blessed
they have also been guaranteed a home of Eternal Rest.

The Race of Life

Because we are all running the race of life
allow me to ask one question please?
Are you running in the right direction?
Will you reach the right destination with ease?

Please take time to consider the matter:
This is a serious question my friend
The end of the road can come quickly
In fact it could be round the next bend

Cast your eye on the cross that is empty
The one on which our Saviour died
He who now sits with His Father in heaven
Desires we will one day dwell by His side.

He himself has secured our admission
He now intercedes for you and for me
All He asks is that we love and trust Him
To avail of this eternal guarantee!

However, if we travel in the wrong direction
A different destination's guaranteed
God warns no sin will enter heaven
This destination is worth avoiding believe me.

How would you feel if you heard God's final call?

If you were to hear God's final call today
how would you feel, what would you say?
Would you be embarrassed, ashamed, afraid,
hope this divine meeting could be delayed?

How would God greet you, would He now say
"Well done faithful servant you are welcome today?"

Or, "Depart from me I know you not,
you have never forgiveness or salvation sought."

Would you argue, complain, sob or plead
Claiming to now see your spiritual need
Only then to hear, "Too late, too late,"
"The day of grace is ended; this is now your fate."

Please note this question while there is time
God holds the keys to your life and mine,
He now offers Salvation as a gift, "It's free"
He will not present this offer indefinitely.



Mamore Gap, Inishowen Penninsula

I Am So Unworthy, Lord

I don't know the route and I don't know the way
I don't know the hour and I don't know the day
But there will come a time when You will call me home
You will no longer allow me this world to roam.

You will call me to account for how I spent my time
Whether in worship and service – considering Your Will mine
Or whether I squandered precious time away
Giving little thought to Your purpose for my life every day.

Thankfully I won't be called before Your Judgment Seat
To give an account of the sin I could not personally delete.
No words can express the gratitude I feel
For Your gift of forgiveness and redemption that's real.

Lord, I am so unworthy of Your great gift of love
I will continually praise and thank You until we meet above
I am sorry my sin caused You such anguish and pain
I now dedicate my life to honour Your Precious Name.



At the end of the day

Death is Not the End

Death is not the end
 it's the beginning of life to come
When we may enter the loving Presence
 of God, the Father, Spirit and Son
Enter that place of beauty
 that Christ has gone to prepare
Where all who love and trust Him
 can dwell with Him eternally there.

That place of peace and glory
 where streets are paved with gold
Where pain, sickness and sadness
 will be forgotten within God's fold
Where angels praise and worship
 God's glorified, exalted Son
Where Jesus Christ, our Saviour
 intercedes for everyone.

For those who do not love Him
 there's a different story to be told
A story of complete abandonment
 where none will God's love behold
A place of separation
 a place of deep distress
A place of torment and suffering
 where there is no peace and rest.

A place of utter darkness
 a place of constant pain
Where God's comforting healing touch
 will never be felt again
Because of God's loving mercy
 He sent Jesus Christ, His Son
To redeem sinful, fallen man
 He desires to save everyone.

Yet, to mankind He gave freedom
 freedom to make choices in life
Most foolishly refuse His offer
 while others accept Eternal Life
Take note of what is on offer
 each person must this choice make
Choose life and live forever
 to reject would be a terrible mistake.



Taken from our garden

Do You Know Where You're Going?

Do you know where you're going?
Do you have your destination in view?
Are you in the right lane of traffic?
Will this route get you through?

Do you need to study the map?
Perhaps note the road signs too?
These aids are for our benefit
least we make decisions we'll rue.

Take note, make haste without hesitation
all roads don't lead to the same destination,
some are private, some mere cul-de-sacs
pay heed while there's time to get on track.

The narrow road leads to heaven and home.
Many miss this turn off while this world they roam.
Take a right at the junction called Calvary's Tree
There, Jesus died to pave the way to heaven you'll see.

Jesus died for sin so that mankind could be
united with Him for all eternity
United in that place of mansions fair
that beautiful place He has gone to prepare.

But we will only arrive at that destination,
if in life we realize our need of justification
and accept God's free offer of Divine Grace
and set our face towards that Heavenly Place.

Questions Worth Thinking About

Are you on speaking terms with God?
Do you commune with Him night and day?
Do you consider His Word your guide book?
Or do you choose to live just any old way?
Do you seek His advice on all you plan and do?
Or do you just live you life any old way you choose?
Do you think there will be consequences for your thoughts and deeds?
Or do you think it doesn't matter anyway because nobody sees:

Or is life the richer because you spend time with Him?
Is every day an adventure because you have His guiding Spirit within?
Does every day get brighter as you travel on life's way?
Does it get more exciting as you wait to meet Him one day?
Do you fear that final day when He will call you home?
Or is your destiny assured when this world you no longer roam?
Are you convinced that it is possible to know for sure?
That your eternity with the Saviour is secure?

*We are Never Separated
from Your Spirit*

Our Almighty God and Blessed Heavenly Father
it is such a blessing and comfort to know
that no matter where we travel
or no matter where we roam
we are never separated from Your Spirit,
who within our hearts has made His home.

What love, joy and peace Your Holy Spirit brings
no wonder my soul of Your grace and mercy sings.
It is now my aim and desire
to share Your love where ere I go
so that other hearts, souls and minds
may too with Your love o'er flow.

The Promised Gift of Salvation

While Jesus is the Saviour and this fact is good to know
this knowledge is not sufficient if to heaven we want to go
We as individuals must accept that salvation is what we need
acknowledging that Christ can cleanse our souls of pride, guilt and greed
Salvation is a gift of grace that is freely offered to you and me
but like any gift that is offered it must be accepted personally
Take note, gifts ought to be accepted because offers can be withdrawn,
none of us know while here on earth whether our days will be short or long
Salvation is the only gift that will never deteriorate, spoil or fade
this our Saviour promised and He has never broken a promise made.

d d

Blessed Holy Spirit

Blessed Holy Spirit I stand in awe of You today
Impressed that You the Holy One should inhabit lives of clay;
We don't deserve Your gentleness, Your patience or Your care;
Our hearts filled with sin and shame ignored Your presence there.

Yet, You in mercy led us to our Saviour from all sin;

We ourselves were powerless to cleanse ourselves within.

Then You began to whisper soft and deep inside our souls
Drawing us to the only One who could make our dark souls whole

You began to show us that we must be cleansed and clean
if we are to dwell with the Holy One who dwells in Heaven unseen.

There our God in righteousness denies access to any wrong;
Yet He in mercy sent His Son that through faith in Him all might belong.

d d

God's Amazing Free Gift

Salvation we can't work for, pay for, earn or merit
It is awarded free of charge to those who don't deserve it
It is offered as a gift by our heavenly Father above
To rescue condemned sinners in mercy and in love
He sent His only Son to this fallen sin cursed world
As predicted, before many His divine plan He unfurled
Jesus, who knew no sin become human although divine
So that in mercy He could save your sinful soul and mine
Now He can offer salvation as a gift to all – it's free!
If we are wise we will accept this wonderful offer gratefully
Then live our lives in love, service, thankfulness and praise
Until united with Him at the end of our earthly days.

d d

Faith

The Only Requirement

There is one acceptable way to come into the presence of the Lord,
that is by faith, like persons recorded in the living Word of God
One lady came on bended knee acknowledging her need
only to find that Jesus relieved her of her infirmity with speed.
The paralysed man who lay by day beside Bethesda pool
called out in his need unashamed to be called a fool.
The father of a child who lay critically ill upon his bed
hastily went to Jesus, his child was brought back from the dead.
The jailor in the prison asked how he could know the way,
to eternal life he was directed that very same day
No-one was ever turned away or laughed at in derision
all were immediately accepted and guaranteed a home in heaven
The only criteria required is that all acknowledge their need of Him
and they will instantly be guaranteed an eternal home in heaven.

d d

Prayer

Lord it is with confidence I come to you today
knowing that You are always waiting to hear what I have to say
You are my loving Father who longs my voice to hear
I am so very thankful that You are ever near.

d d

A Precious Fact

Jesus the sinless Son of God
gave His life on Calvary's tree
There His precious blood was shed
because of His love for you and me.

d d

Good News Worth Sharing

Never be ashamed the Lord Jesus to claim
as Saviour, as Lord and as King
There is no other name in heaven or earth
that is worthy of this praise we can bring.

Lift His Name high and let the world know
Jesus wants to be their friend and not their foe
He longs to be their Saviour, Lord and King
share this Good News that other hearts too may sing.

Good News is something that is rarely heard
and believe me this News is worthy of being shared
Jesus Christ is the one and only Saviour from sin
so share this News with strangers, friends, kith and kin.

Without salvation man is destined for Hell
A place of torment so it is vital this Good News we tell
For many we may be the only witness they'll meet
who can point them to Jesus who can salvation complete.

He, the Lord Jesus Christ is now enthroned on High
He promises to return to claim His own by and by
What a day of celebration and rejoicing that will be
when together we will worship the One who set us free.

“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.” **Mark 8 v 38**

Jesus said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the



Boats moored at Rathmullan Pier

The Blank Canvas of Every Day

It is with a sense of anticipation that I start every new day
God presents us with a blank canvas upon which He can display
His Divine will and purpose for your life and mine
If we allow Him He will lead and direct us until He calls “TIME”

There is so much He wants to teach us, so much He wants us to see
If we will open our minds and hearts He will illuminate you and me.

There is so much within His creation we overlook and dismiss
Until God illuminates our minds as to why He created our world like this.

God created beauty in abundance of every shape, variety and form
To thrill the heart of every human who does with wonder look upon
God supplies the needs of His created – humans, birds, fish and beast
Without His ongoing provision all life would cease to exist.

Every new day He fills with potential beyond our imagination
New opportunities to build relationships beyond our expectations,
New sights, new experiences, new challenges, new friends
And if necessary, the opportunity with others to make amends.

We ought never to take for granted our life experiences every day
We ought to thank God for His blessings and seek His Will to obey.
We ought to ask the help of our Creator - His Divine Will to see
Then believe me your life and mine will be enriched indefinitely.



Sheephaven Bay taken from Ards, Creeslough

The Theory of Evolution

Today I heard a statement made by a person of renown
He said there is no God; we just turn to dust when in the ground.
I thought how sad, how foolish can this learned person be
He may have earthly knowledge but the truth of God's Word he doesn't see.

Where does he think we came from, how was life on earth attained?
If there is no Eternal Creator then how is life on earth sustained?
Who gave us thought and discernment, who gave us the ability to create?
Who gave us the desire to escape judgement and the ability to love and hate?

If we humans are born without a soul can you answer this question for me
when a surgeon removed physical parts how come I still felt very much me?
If life on earth just HAPPENED; how clever that dust must have been
to create itself so uniquely into so many astonishingly beautiful things.

Why does man have the ability to communicate, to plan and create?
While other creatures in creation can only to their own kind relate?
If creation itself can evolve then can I give some ingredients to you
then you can watch and see if they can create a work of art, a cake or a stew?

To my knowledge there must be an artist, a baker as well as a chef
As you look upon these wonders I am sure you will agree with myself.
So at our peril we ignore our Creator; the One who created and sustains this earth
because one day after death we will meet Him and acknowledge that He gave
us breath.

The Touch of the Craftsman's Hand

Awestruck we saw what it was possible to do
with what was just pieces of wood to me or you!
These same pieces of wood in the craftsman's hands
were shaped and fashioned to his designs and plans.
It was evident he worked with precision and care
creating intricate detail with skill and flair.
The finished articles we looked at with admiration and awe
amazed at this man's talent with a chisel, plane and saw.

The craftsman's skill and patience set these creations apart
as things of real beauty and impressive works of art.
He had obviously worked with patience day after day
to produce the perfection that had now come our way.
The lustre and shine showed there was no mistaking
the loving attention to detail and care he had taken.
he obviously chiselled, sanded and polished to perfection
these great works of art that are now worth inspection.

Our lives like the wood are rough, gnarled, unsightly,
it is our Creator's desire to work on us daily and nightly.
If we are willing to allow Him, He is able to do
all that is necessary to perfect me and you.
He will work with gentle, tender, loving care
to make us special, different, unique and rare.
It's God desire that when the world looks at you and me
the work of Him the divine craftsman they will see.

A Business Built on Love

You may think I am being ridiculous when you hear what I am going to say
But I have three families, I will explain to you if I may
Firstly I have family born of flesh and blood,
Secondly I have kin within the family of God,
Lastly let me tell you what the third family means to me
my ever growing family within FLP.

When a complete stranger asked for a few moments of my time
I thought, this is a joke, a crank, a scam, a pure waste of time
Then on consideration I asked him to call again
When he did Eric asked what from Forever he could gain
Now it's a different story; we have good news to tell
We are now feeling much better and our business is doing well.

This sharing, caring family is strengthening all the time
Our FLP family that was first conceived on line
Now we have children, grandchildren and great grandchildren too
They are becoming quite a handful let me tell you
We are now part of one big family under the umbrella of FLP
Can I encourage you to take a look then I know you too will see.

It doesn't mean we have no concerns, anxieties and worries too
But because there is unity; we help each other through.
The more we work together the more there is to share
Disagreements within this family are very, very rare.
We all share with one another what is we are going to do
That makes this family special; let me tell you.

Even aunts, uncles and cousins are there for one another
Ever willing to lend a hand without fuss or bother
Then there is the father figure who looks after us all the time
ever seeking to find ways to help his children down the line.
It is he who built this business and his foundation stone was love



Schönbrunn Palace and Gardens, Vienna

Our Visit to Vienna

Vienna a place of beauty, of craftsmanship and design
where wonderful skill and precision thrilled this heart of mine.

From the ancient to the modern including everything in between
we had so much to see and explore that hitherto we had not seen.

There, building after building on street after lengthy street
caused us to stop and stare at each amazing architectural feat.

While exteriors were spectacular, interiors were sublime
Carpenters, sculptors and artists created ambiances that felt divine.

Numerous diverse museums reminded us of folk gone before
Works like those of Rembrandt were a joy to examine and to explore.

Not forgetting the brilliant music of Mozart, Brahms and Strauss
where daily opera goers are reminded of their legacy left on earth.

Many beautifully sculpted cathedrals abound for all to see
they reminded us that God desires a relationship with you and me.

I can't forget the Palaces, the Imperial and Schönbrunn.
Their opulence is unprecedented beyond anything I ever looked upon.

I now recall the reason for our exciting adventure to Vienna
Forever Living's European Rally where Rex presented Profit Share cheques to many.

There over 10 thousand FLP distributors saw what it is possible to achieve and do
Within this amazing opportunity that has been made available to me and you.

Our web site address: www.aloebusinessproduct.com

My thoughts on “The Lord’s Prayer”

“Our Father which art in heaven” are words we so often say
But do we value the privilege of being allowed to speak to God this way
Do we realise we are speaking to our Creator, the Lord of all the earth!
The One to whom we will give an account when we take our final breath.

“Hallowed be Thy name” are the words we than go on to say
If we are wise we will honour and praise this blessed name always
Our mouths may often utter these words while our minds are far away
Yet no earthly name should receive the respect of this Name any day.

We ought to heed our Saviour's instructions to the disciples and wisely say
May **“Thy kingdom come”**, O Lord, rule in my life I pray
I now dedicate myself to Thee, body, spirit, soul and mind
Come and dwell among us Lord that in You we may be combined.

“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” is the request our lips now make
We ought thoughtfully consider these words lest we make a terrible mistake
Is it the sincere desire of our hearts to ask God to rule all we do and say
Or do we just trip these special words of our tongues carelessly?

When our mouths then utter this request **“give us this day our daily bread”**,
Do our minds really consider the words our mouths have now just said?
Do we really believe that God supplies our each and every need?
Or is our mind foolishly filled with thoughts of self, pride and greed?

“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”
Do we sincerely repent of our sinfulness forgiving all who sin against us?
If repentant we'll reap forgiveness, if unwilling we'll reap sins consequences
Because Jesus, God's Son clearly stated - God the Father will not then forgive us.

“Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil” we then go on to say
None of us are beyond temptation so we each need to seek God's help daily
Whether we like to admit it or not we have a bias that tempts us to sin
We can never overcome these temptations unless we have God's help within.

We must then acknowledge our God, giving Him honour and praise day and night
Without Him we would be powerless, He controls all, even what is hidden from sight.
“For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory” not only for now but forever.
What then can we say but **“Amen and Amen,”** be it so Lord **“forever and ever.”**

The Bible is the Word of God

We dare not forget that the Bible *is* the **Word** of **GOD**;

it's not the thoughts, aspirations, imaginations of any Tom, Dick or Harry.
What we are considering is the Word of the Creator of all we see and know
in this entire universe about which we can learn much while living here below.

We are considering the Word of the One who created our own human kind,
created in God's own image was how we were designed.

Man cannot prove, disprove or remove the fact of God's existence
but man can prove through faith in Him this fact with His *assistance*.

This we would do well to remember and not leave our souls at risk
'cause one day we will meet the One who personally created us.

We cannot touch, taste, smell or see the air we breathe each day
or the wind that blows us to and fro and blows bad smells away.

But we **can** tell of the winds existence - you too know that this is so
because we can clearly see its effects no matter where we go.

When speaking of Himself - God to Moses said, "I Am,"
proving Moses wasn't dreaming but that God could reveal Himself to man.

Because, God is Spirit we must worship Him in spirit and in truth
this fact I read in God's Holy Word from my early days of youth.

I also read that God sent His Son to make redemption known
Jesus the only sinless One could for our sin atone.

These truths are all revealed within God's Precious Living Word
So if you want to know the answers for life - then read the Word of God

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Daisies, Snowdrops, Pruning God's Garden: What have they all got in common apart from their proximity to nature?

They are all poems in Olive Borland's new book of poetry and they reflect her own destiny and her closeness to God in whom she entrusts her life.

This is Olive's eighth venture into publishing and it is her fifth volume of poems and throughout this publication there are many fine photographs to illustrate the book.

Olive Borland's writings are always inspirational, from the heart and that comes from God's own gift which is something borne out of a very deep faith and trust.

Her poems are from the heart and in many ways that adds to their appeal and simplicity. Because these verses are from the experience of life there is a refreshing sincerity that is very special indeed.

Olive writes with great insight, great energy and with the kind of self-belief that makes us stop and think about our own lives. 'When the water we view is quiet, peaceful and still, God can reflect His creation within it at will.

The beauty of the mountains, the fields and the trees, the bushes, the flowers and even the leaves.' It is that kind of wonderful symmetry that is so appealing within her writing and this book with its 136 pages is a treasure trove, for thought, for reflection and for simply enjoying as you while away the evening.

There are the lessons of life within these covers. 'Salvation is about Trusting' 'What is marriage' 'Congratulations! A Baby Boy' 'Precious Saviour' 'Wise Instruction' 'Become Fishers of Men' 'God's divine Reflection' 'The necessity of Water', and there is 'The Message of the Snowdrop'.

"The One who created the snowdrop – created you and me. He created us for a purpose to enjoy Him for eternity. Like the little snowdrop we need to rely on Him. He will see us through life's storms – with Him too will win,"

A truly wonderful read and 'Whispers of Love' 4 is a very apt title for another fine collection of poems from the heart and the pen of Olive Borland.

John McAteer

Editor, Tirconaill Tribune