

**Poem**

**Catch it before it flies**

**(for Margot)**

Through the horror of mischance,

And the pain of regret,

God speaks,

And says one thing:

“This is life,

Catch it before it flies –

For it will not be yours forever.”

Through the thronging, life-giving dance floors,

And the joy of camaraderie,

God speaks,

And still says one thing:

“This is life,

Give what you have of it for others –

For they will not be with you forever.”

Through the years of weddings, births and deaths,  
And the black nights of longing and sometimes finding,  
God speaks,  
And says that one thing:  
“You have only one chance at this life,  
So love it before it fades,  
For it will not be yours forever.”

Through the Masses and retreats,  
And the nights and days of heartfelt prayer,  
God speaks,  
And says this one thing:  
“Honour me in all things,  
Find me in all people,  
For alone of all drugs, all riches, all kindnesses, all blessings,  
I can be yours forever.”