



# Bespoke Civil Ceremonies

*Giving families the service they deserve*



## 100 Funeral poems

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# Bespoke Civil Ceremonies

## 100 FREE FUNERAL POEMS



Welcome to the Bespoke Civil Ceremonies e-book of 100 free funeral poems.

In our 5 years of helping families create the right funeral ceremony, we have become aware of the power of poetry and verses to touch people's hearts.

But we are only too well aware the 100 free poems we offer you will not be to everyone's taste and there are hundreds more poems you can choose. A quick internet search (typing in something like "Poems and readings for a funeral") will offer you 10,000+ funeral poems. So please be aware that the poems offered here are only suggestions and prompts to guide you in the right direction.

Every attempt has been made within this e-book to avoid any funeral poems that are copyrighted and if it is brought to our attention that one of the following 100 poems is copyrighted we will remove the poem from this collection.

Please remember that YOU can still have any (copyrighted) poem that is "out there" on the internet and have them read at the funeral, we just can't print them in this book. In addition to the 100 poems that we offer you, there are many famous poems that people frequently want to be read at funerals, such as:

- W H Auden's 'Stop all the clocks' – made famous by the film 'Four Weddings and a Funeral'
- David Harkins 'You can shed tears' – used at the Queen Mother's Funeral
- Linda Ellis' 'The Dash'
- Rudyard Kiplin's 'If'
- Tennyson's 'Crossing the bar'
- Man Ehrmann's 'Desiderata'

### 1. I love you my darling, with all my heart,

You took away my breath, right from the start,  
Be sure to know I love you loads,  
It's not the end of our journey, just one of the roads,  
Wait for me; guide me to the light,  
For you are my angel, in the sky so bright,  
I'll wait for the day you take my hand,  
And guide me through the dark, to the Promised Land,  
For the footsteps you walked and the path left behind,  
Is a path to be followed, and me to find,  
For you guided so many, and taught hearts how to love,  
But it's me, who's lost the most, although you're happy above.

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

I'd like to leave an after glow of smiles when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun  
its happy memories I leave you my friends, when life is done.

### 3. We all come for a reason a purpose to be there,

To learn and for some, do great things, for the lucky, a love to share.  
Our time on earth is pre-ordained, our blueprint for life pre-set,  
And however short our stay there, each returns home, without regret.  
My purpose there was many-fold, my life was such a pleasure,  
The love and strength you showered on me, my very soul will always treasure.  
You made my life so wonderful, my problems - you made your own.  
Your guidance, love and caring were for me and me alone.  
But now it's for me, gentle friends to return the love and hope,  
To give you gentle guidance, to ease your pain; to help you cope.  
We both know that I'm still there, and walk beside you every day,  
Always there to love and protect you, and that - no power can take away.  
You are 'there' to do great things \_\_\_\_ (Name), your purpose to help mankind,  
And when your time on earth is over, it is my hand that you will find.  
You see when God gave me to you; the 'gift' was really mine,  
Because you were and are my purpose your life and mine, forever entwined.  
So think of me and know I'm smiling think of smiles and laughs - never dismay,  
Just know that I am always there with you, forever and a Day

4. Each night we shed a silent tear, as we speak to you in prayer.

To let you know we love you, and just how much we care.  
Take our million teardrops, Wrap them up in love,  
then ask the wind to carry them, to you in heaven above.

5. Your leaving, your passing, your going away,

stirs a deep passion that I'll follow one day.  
If you are now destined to wander sweet lands,  
Forget not the warmth of my heart and my hands,  
Recall if you wish the words in my head  
and the faltering times when 'I love you' was said.  
I know you can see me, in that heavenly light  
your picture's still smiling, in the secret dark night  
Your gentle arms around me, the comfort of a kiss  
These simple truths of happiness are what I grieve and miss.  
No matter where you are this day, destined lovers know,  
our souls are on a journey, our hearts ebb to and fro  
My image, my memory keeps close there with thee,  
For one day my darling, you'll live there with me

6. Mum... if I could have only one more day, only one more.

I would pick up the phone and tell you I love you.  
I would thank you for loving me unconditionally.  
And I would thank you for helping me to be me.  
If I could have only one more day.  
I pray heaven is everything you dreamt it to be.  
I pray you're safe and free of pain.  
and have met up with your loved ones.  
And I pray you have heard every word I have said.  
To my Darling Mum, I will love you forever, so be safe until we meet again.

7. Deeply in love they had always been

Nowadays such a love is rarely seen  
Unafraid they were to confess  
The love for each other they possessed  
In their years together life tested them  
Always they overcame many battles stern  
Their love for each other conquered all  
Such a love they had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Together they shared great happiness  
For each other a loving tenderness  
Mum's heart was full when she heard dad say  
Come speak to me love – I have thought of you all day

Now at last together they will be watching over their family  
They loved them all, they did their best  
We wish them love, peace and eternal happiness

#### 8. Now that I am gone, remember me with smiles and laughter.

If you need to cry, cry with your brother or sister who walks beside you in grief.  
And when you need me, put your arms around someone  
and give to them what you need to give to me.  
There are so many people in this world who need so much.  
I want to leave you something much better than words or sounds.  
Look for me in the people I've known or helped in some special way.  
Let me live in your heart as well as in your mind.  
You can love me most by letting your love reach out to our loved ones,  
by embracing them and living in their love. Love does not die, people do.  
So, when all that's left of me is love, give me away as best you can.

#### 9. Not how did he die, but how did he live?

Not what did he gain, but what did he give?  
These are the units to measure the worth of a man as a human;  
true greatness on earth.  
Not, what was his church, nor what was his creed?  
But had he befriended those really in need?  
Was he ever ready, with word of good cheer,  
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?  
Not what did the cutting in the newspaper say,  
But how many were sorry when he passed away.

#### 10. I believe in death - I believe it is a part of life.

I believe we are born to die - to die that we might live more fully,  
born to die a little each day - to selfishness, to pretence, to ego.  
I believe that every time we pass from one stage of life to another,  
something in us dies and something is born anew.  
I believe we taste death in moments of loneliness and rejection,  
in moments of sorrow and disappointment;  
when we are afraid, lose courage and give up,  
when we see our dreams broken  
and every time we say goodbye.  
I believe, to, that we are dying before our time  
when we live in bitterness, in hatred and in isolation.  
I believe that each day we are creating our death by the way we live.  
But to those who have faith, death is a gateway,  
a gateway to eternal life.

11. Laughter came so easy, to someone with your smile.

I was lucky to have known you and loved you for a while.  
I borrowed you from heaven, now you must return.  
Of all the lessons in my life, this is the hardest one to learn

12. Should I ever leave the whom I love

and fall into silence, through pain from above ,  
The grief that I speak within swollen tears,  
tells me somehow, it all shall be clear.  
the sorrow, the laughter, the pain and the joy  
are part of a mystery of life to enjoy.  
If I cannot see beyond tears this day,  
in silence I thank you that love shone my way.  
As water to the thirsty, as beauty to the eyes,  
so is my love, my living love that cries.  
Today I am silent, in lament I sadly groan,  
but joy entails a treasure; love is all I own.  
Birth makes love eternal, it cannot simply die,  
in life, in death, in perpetuity we shall forever lie.

13. Grieve for me, for I would grieve for you.

Then brush away the sorrow and the tears  
Life is not over, but begins anew,  
with courage you must greet the coming years.  
To live forever in the past is wrong;  
and can only cause you misery and pain.  
Dwell not on memories overlong,  
with others you must share and care again.  
Reach out and comfort those who comfort you;  
recall the years, but only for a while.  
Nurse not your loneliness; but live again.  
Forget not. Remember with a smile.

14. Please do not feel guilty It was just my time to go.

I know that you are feeling sad, and the tears just seem to flow.  
I don't want you to keep crying, you are shedding so many tears.  
We all come to earth for a lifetime, but for some it's not many years.  
I haven't really left you even though it may seem so.  
I have just gone to my heavenly home, and I'm closer than you know.  
I know you long to see me, but there's nothing I can do.  
Just believe me when I say this, I'm right there next to you.'  
I'll send you little messages so please try and understand  
For when your time is ready, I'll be there to take your hand.

15. If only we could see the splendour of the land

To which our loved ones are called from you and me;  
we'd understand, if only we could hear the welcome they receive  
From old familiar voices all so dear we would not grieve  
If only we could know the reason why they went  
We'd smile and wipe away the tears that flow and wait content.

16. I cannot think you're not alive somewhere.

I think of you just as I did before.  
No sudden gust of wind has closed the door  
or made your presence vanish in thin air.  
I write you this because I know you're there;  
that even after death there must be more.  
So does faith one's inner sun restore  
after bitter darkness few can bear.  
My mind and heart have not yet lost a friend  
Even though my senses are bereft,  
for you remain the witness of my soul.  
No mere accident our love can end  
So long as I have will and memory left,  
and you lie silent on some unknown shoal  
and my heart will be restless until it rests with you.

17. Life is but a stopping place a pause in what's to be,

A resting place along the way to sweet eternity.  
We all have different journeys laid paths along the way,  
to learn to love, forgive and heal but we are never meant to stay.  
Our destiny is waiting - a place we all shall know  
for some the journey's quicker- for some the sojourn is slow.  
But when our journey's ended we'll claim a great reward,  
everlasting peace and presence with our loved ones and our Lord.

18. We've known the joy of pleasure, at times endured some pain,

We've lived here in the sunshine, and often walked in rain.  
Although we're separated, and for a time apart,  
I never will be lonely- you're forever in my heart.  
Though death can seem so sudden, and it is always sure,  
What is oft' forgotten- it is not without a cure.  
I'm living here in peace my love, and here I'll always be,  
Death is but a journey, you will return to me  
There may be times you miss me, I sort of hope you do,  
But fear not my true darling, I wait and pray for you.  
Keep faith, keep hope, keep love, my friend- It's a simple way to grow,  
Find peace, be happy, and live your life, miss me, but let me go.

### 19. Why smile in such sadness?

It is because of the memories of laughter shared in the past  
The humour of life, the fun and the joy  
the reminiscences certain to last.

Why relief in such sadness?

It is because there is peace, with no more chance of pain.

No-one can hurt, nor take away there will never be fear again.

When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set for me

I want no rites in that gloom filled room, why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little but not too long and not with your head bowed low.

Remember the love that we once shared, miss me but let me go.

For this a journey that we all must take and each must go alone,

it's all part of the Master's plan, a step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick at heart go to the friends you know

and bury your sorrows in doing good deeds; miss me but let me go

### 20. If only I could have said goodbye before the end

I'd have told you dearest \_\_\_\_\_ that 'd miss you my best pal

I'd have told you that I loved you and that I would not forget

That always you were there for me when life made me upset

If only I had known how quickly you would go

I'd have thanked you for all the times you never said 'I told you so'

If only I'd have the chance again to tell you this and more

I would make sure that I said it all my feelings I would pour

### 21. This is from my heart, with Love, to you

This is for every hour we have ever spent together:

For every kiss, each embrace and every tear shed for one another...

This is for every precious moment we have created just by being together:

For all the times we managed to work through our anger and our tears,

For all the times I was distressed, and you were patient.

This is for every time that you were there when I needed you:

For all the personal sacrifices you have made for me,

For all the times when you understood me,

And for all the support that you have always given me.

This is for all the beautiful memories: of the love we have given to each other,

Of all the tenderness and love that you have shown to me,

Of all the little things you have done for me

That in time have added up to be so great - Most of all,

this is for you from me: to show you just how special I believe you really are.

This is from my heart: To thank you for everything you have done for me,

To let you know exactly how I feel about you,

and to tell you that I will always love you

22. As long as I can dream, as long as I can think,  
As long as I have a memory, I will love you.  
As long as I have eyes to see, and ears to hear,  
And lips to speak...I will love you.  
As long as I have a heart to feel,  
A soul stirring inside me,  
An imagination to hold you... I will love you.  
As long as there is a time, as long as there is a love,  
As long as I have breath to speak your name I will love you.

23. When I quit this mortal shore  
And mosey 'round this earth no more,  
Do not weep and do not sob;  
I may have found a better job.  
Don't go and buy a large bouquet  
For which you'll find it hard to pay,  
Don't mope around and feel all blue;  
I may be better off than you.  
Don't tell the folks I was a saint  
Or any old thing that I ain't.  
If you have jam like that to spread,  
Please hand it out before I'm dead.  
If you have roses bless your soul,  
Just pin one in my buttonhole  
While I'm alive and well today;  
Don't wait until I'm gone away.

24. Don't cry for me in sadness; don't weep for me in sorrow,  
For I will live on beside you, as sure as comes tomorrow.  
My body has gone but my spirit lives on, as does my love for you,  
Just as in life, I'll watch over you, I always will be true.  
My blood lives on in my children, how I've watched them grow with pride,  
I'll live on within them, always by their side.  
I know my jokes weren't always funny and jobs weren't always done,  
Just try and remember the good times, the days when we had fun.  
Reach out if you need me, for I always will be near,  
Just talk to me, as if I am there, I promise I will hear.  
For I'll live on, within your mind, we'll never be apart,  
As long as you keep, my memory, deep within your heart.  
So lift up your hearts, don't be sad, my spirit hasn't gone,  
While you're still there, so am I, I really will live on.

25. Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.

Life is beauty, admire it. Life is bliss, taste it.  
Life is a dream, realize it. Life is a challenge, meet it.  
Life is a duty, complete it. Life is a game, play it.  
Life is a promise, fulfil it. Life is sorrow, overcome it.  
Life is a song, sing it. Life is a struggle, accept it.  
Life is a tragedy, confront it. Life is an adventure, dare it.  
Life is luck, make it. Life is too precious, enjoy it.  
Life is life, give thanks for it.

26. Friend, please don't mourn for me

I'm still here, though you don't see.  
I'm right by your side each night and day  
and within your heart I long to stay.  
My body is gone but I'm always near.  
I'm everything you feel, see or hear.  
My spirit is free, but I'll never depart  
As long as you keep me alive in your heart.  
I'll never wander out of your sight-  
I'm the brightest star on a summer night.  
I'll never be beyond your reach-  
I'm the warm moist sand when you're at the beach.  
I'm the colourful leaves when Autumn's around  
and the pure white snow that blankets the ground.  
I'm the beautiful flowers of which you're so fond,  
the clear cool water in a quiet pond.  
I'm the first bright blossom you'll see in the spring,  
the first warm raindrop that April will bring.  
I'm the first ray of light when the sun starts to shine,  
and you'll see that the face in the moon is mine.  
When you start thinking there's no one to love you,  
you can talk to me through the Lord above you.  
I'll whisper my answer through the leaves on the trees,  
and you'll feel my presence in the soft summer breeze.  
I'm the hot salty tears that flow when you weep  
and the beautiful dreams that come while you sleep.  
I'm the smile you see on a baby's face.  
Just look for me, friend, I'm every place!

27. She is not dead who leaves us this great heritage

Of remembered joy - She still lives in our hearts,  
In the happiness we knew; In the dreams we shared.  
She still breathes in the lingering fragrance wind blown,

from her favourite flowers.  
She still smiles in the moonlight's silver  
And laughs in the sunlight's sparkling gold.  
She still speaks in the echoes of words  
we've heard her say again and again.  
She still moves in the rhythm of waving grasses,  
in the dance of the tossing branches; she is not dead;  
her memory is warm in our hearts, Comfort in our sorrow.  
She is not apart from us but a part of us.  
For love is eternal and those who love shall be  
with us throughout all eternity.

28. A rose once grew where all could see,  
sheltered besides a wall,  
and, as the days passed swiftly by,  
it spread its branches straight and tall....  
One day, a beam of light shone through  
a crevice that had opened wide-  
the rose bent gently towards its warmth  
then passed beyond to the other side  
Now you who deeply feel its loss feel comforted-  
the rose blooms there - its beauty even greater now,  
nurtured by God's loving care

29. Into the darkness and warmth of the earth, we lay you down  
Into the sadness and smiles of our memories, we lay you down  
Into the cycle of living and dying and rising again, we lay you down  
May you rest in peace, in fulfilment, in loving  
May you run straight home in God's embrace  
Into the freedom of wind and sunshine, we let you go  
Into the dance of the stars and the planets, we let you go  
Into the wind's breath and the hands of the star maker, we let you go  
We love you, we miss you, and we want you to be happy  
Go safely, go dancing, and go running home

30. When I am gone, release me, let me go  
You have so many things to see and do  
You must not tie yourself to me with tears  
Be happy that I have had so many years  
I gave you my love, you can only guess  
How much you gave me in happiness  
I thank you for the love each have shown  
But now it is time I travelled on alone  
So grieve a while for me, grieve you must  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust

It is only for a while that we must part  
So bless the memories in your heart  
I will not be far away, for life goes on  
So if you need me, call and I will come  
Though you cannot see or touch me, I will be near  
And if you listen with your heart, you will hear  
All of my love around you soft and clear  
Then, when you must come this way alone  
I will greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home"

**31. When someone very dear to us from life is called away**

it takes away all meaning brings sadness to each day  
Take comfort in the knowledge that \_\_\_\_\_ now lives on  
in tranquillity, rest and peace all suffering is gone.  
There is a truth we state today that the human soul lives on  
and life is but a preparation for the world where they've now gone  
When your grief and pain have lessened and all your tears are shed  
may you once again find happiness in the road that lies ahead

**32. Angels waiting by your side, the time is here, no place to hide**

Journey done, it's time to go, you need to know we love so.  
You touched our hearts in many ways, even in the darkest days .  
Know you this before we part, you go with kisses from the heart  
We cry this day and rightly so ,we never wanted you to go  
Cornerstone and family tie, we never thought that you would die  
With dignity you faced your peers, and proudly walked in all years  
Job now done, on our own, hope you're proud of how we've grown  
A beacon on the raging sea, there was not one as strong as thee  
You fought the fight and won the day, something none can take away  
To you we owe our everything -Your greatest gift this love we bring  
With heavy hearts we say goodbye and silent tears we too cry  
And so dear mother slip away, we hope we'll meet again someday  
Know you this, you've left behind, A treasure man has yet to find

**Anne McGuinness – used with permission**

**33. As you love me, let there be no mourning when I go,-**

No tearful eyes, No hopeless sighs, No woe,- or even sadness!  
Indeed I would not have you sad,  
For I myself shall be full glad,  
With the high triumphant gladness of a soul made free  
No windows darkened for my own soul will be as never before,  
There will be no more suffering or sadness or pain  
Only love that will fill my soul

So rejoice with me at my soul's loosing from captivity.  
Wish me a "bon voyage!" as you do a friend  
Whose joyous visit brought you happiness  
and who's happy end is an "A Dieu" and an "Au revoir"  
And then on that final day of days when all shall be made whole  
I shall be waiting there to greet you at His door.  
And, we shall be together again and perfect in faith and love  
So, think not of me as dead,  
But rather- "Happy - happy that a new journey has begun  
(S)He has gone home - to God, His (her) Father

#### 34. I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.  
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.  
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.  
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.  
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.  
I wish you enough "Hello's" to get you through the final "Goodbye."

#### 35. Remember me on quiet days,

When raindrops whisper on your window pane,  
But in your memories have no grief, just let the joy we knew remain.  
Remember all the love we share, Remember me when spring walks by,  
Remember me on red sunsets, Remember when you are happy, so am I  
And when your thoughts do turn to me, know that I would not have you cry,  
But live for me, and laugh for me, and while you live I shall not die

#### 36. Goodbye my family, my life has passed

I loved you all to the very last  
Weep not for courage take  
Love each other for my sake  
For those you love don't go away  
they walk beside you everyday

#### 37. How would we know the sun was bright if we never saw the rain

How would we know we feel so well, If we never suffered pain  
How would we know we were happy, If we never had heartaches to bear  
And how would we know we were needed, If we never had someone to care  
How would we know what faith is, If nothing ever went wrong  
How would we know what rest is, If the road had not been long  
And how would we know what laughter is, If we never shed some tears  
And how would we know what courage is, If we never witnessed fears?  
How would we know what hate is, If we haven't given love  
And how would we know what life is, If there were no love.

**38. Just close your eyes and you will see**

All the memories that you have of me  
Just sit and relax and you will find  
I'm really still there inside your mind  
Don't cry for me now I'm gone  
For I am in the land of song  
There is no pain, there is no fear  
So dry away that silent tear  
Don't think of me in the dark and cold  
For here I am, no longer old  
I'm in that place that's filled with love  
Known to you all, as "UP ABOVE"

**39. Don't grieve for me now I'm free**

I am following the path laid out for me.  
I could not stay another day to laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
for I've found my peace at the close of the day.  
If my parting left a void, then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss and these many things - I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with tears and sorrow for I wish you my love and joy tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've loved you much good friends, good times, a lovers touch.  
Perhaps my time seem all too brief burden not your life with grief.  
Lift up your heart, we'll meet again  
my life , my love, my one true friend.

**40. A million times, I've needed you, a million times I've cried**

If love alone could save you, you never would have died.  
In life I loved you dearly; in death I love you still  
for in my heart you filled a place, no-one could ever fill.  
It broke my heart to lose you, but you did not go alone,  
for part of me went with you, the day God took you home.

**41. Don't reach the autumn of your years, and find life's passed you by**

You'll be surprised what you can do, if you will only try  
So make the most of every day, your dreams can all come true  
Success or failure in this life, depends my friends on you  
Sometimes it is not clear to us, why some things happen so  
It is not what we planned at all, nor where we tried to go  
But don't be sad when things go wrong, which put you to the test  
For you will know when looking back, you did your very best.

**42. We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name,**

In life we loved you dearly; in death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone.  
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.  
You left us peaceful memories; your love is still our guide,  
And though we cannot see you, you are always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,  
But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

**43. Weep not for me though I am gone into the gentle night**

Grieve if you will, but not for long upon my souls sweet flight.  
There is no need for tears, I am at peace, my soul is at rest  
There is no pain, I suffer not, for with your love I was so blessed.  
I am in a place of comfort the fear now is gone.  
Put those things out of your thoughts, in your memory I live on.  
Remember not my fight for breath, remember not the strife  
Please do not dwell upon my death but celebrate my life

**44. Think of me as one at rest, for me you should not weep**

I have no pain no troubled thoughts for I am just asleep  
The living thinking me that was, is now forever still  
But life! Life goes on without me now, as time forever will.  
If your heart is heavy now because I've gone away  
Dwell not long upon it friend; for none of us can stay  
But those of you who liked me, I sincerely thank you all  
And those of you who loved me, I thank you most of all.  
And in my generous lifespan, as time went rushing by  
I found some time to hesitate, to laugh, to love, to cry  
Matters it not if time began; If time will ever cease?  
I was here, I used it all, and now I am at peace.

**45. As we look back over time, we find ourselves wondering .....**

Did we remember to thank you enough for all you have done for us?  
For all the times you were by our sides to help and support us .....

To celebrate our successes, to understand our problems  
and accept our defeats? Or for teaching us by your example,  
The value of hard work, good judgement, courage and integrity?  
We wonder if we ever thanked you for the sacrifices you made.  
to let us have the very best?  
And for the simple things like laughter, smiles and times we shared?  
\_\_\_\_\_If we have forgotten to show our gratitude enough  
for all the things you did, we're thanking you now.  
And we are hoping you knew all along,  
just how much you meant to us.

#### 46. Let me die working,

Still tackling plans unfinished, tasks undone!  
Clean to its end, swift may my race be run.  
No laggard steps, no faltering, no shirking;  
Let me die working - Let me die thinking,  
Let me fare forth still with an open mind,  
Fresh secrets to unfold, new truths to find,  
My soul undimmed, alert, no question blinking;  
Let me die thinking - Let me die giving,  
The substance of life, for life's enriching;  
Time, things and self on heaven converging,  
No selfish thought, love redeeming, living;  
Let me die giving.

#### 47. When I come to the end of the road

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

#### 48. Your gentle face and patient smile

with sadness we recall.  
You had kind words for all you met and still are loved by all.  
Though voice is mute and heart is stilled, you loved us well and true,  
and that is why the trial to part is pained by love so good.  
But as long as life and memory last, we will remember you;  
we miss you now, our hearts are sore  
as time goes by, we'll miss you more.  
Your loving smile, your gentle face  
no one can ever fill your place.

49. Remember me; to the living, I am gone.

To the sorrowful, I will never return, to the angry, I was cheated,  
But to the happy, I am at peace, and to the faithful, I have never left.  
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.

As you stand upon a shore, gazing at a beautiful sea - remember me.  
As you look in awe at a mighty forest and its majesty - remember me.  
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity - remember me.  
Remember me in your heart, your thoughts, and your memories  
of the times we loved, the times we cried,  
the times we fought, the times we laughed.  
For if you always think of me, I will have never gone.

50. Sometimes it helps to know that you're not alone

That others are thinking about you and wishing you well  
Sometimes when you are in a dark place  
Friends hope that you will reach for the lamp  
That will lead you into the light.  
Sometimes we have to stand helplessly by  
Whilst you place the first foot on the path  
That will take you from a sad place, to happier places  
We cannot walk for you but we can walk with you  
As true friends will, every step of the way.

51. Feel no guilt in laughter; he/she knows how much you care

Feel no sorrow in a smile that he/she's not here to share  
You cannot grieve forever; he/she would not want you to  
He'd/ She'd hope that you can carry on, the way you always do  
So talk about the good times and the ways you loved and cared  
The days you spent together, all the happiness you shared  
Let memories surround you, let love live in your heart  
Love and memories are a blessing - and stop us being apart

52. We Will Remember You...

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,  
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of Winter,  
We will remember you  
In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of Spring,  
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of Summer,  
We will remember you  
In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of Autumn,  
In the beginning of the year and when it ends,  
We will remember you  
When we are weary and in need of strength,

When we are lost and sick at heart,  
We will remember you  
When we have joys we yearn to share  
As long as we live, you too will live  
For you are a part of us as long as we remember you

**53. We trust that beyond absence there is a presence.**

That beyond the pain there can be healing.  
That beyond the brokenness there can be wholeness.  
That beyond the anger there may be peace.  
That beyond the hurting there may be forgiveness.  
That beyond the silence there may be the word.  
That beyond the word there may be understanding.  
That through understanding there is love.

**54. A wife, a mother, a grandma too,**

This is the legacy we have from you.  
You taught us love and how to fight,  
You gave us strength, you gave us might.  
A stronger person would be hard to find,  
For in your heart, you were always kind.  
You fought for us all in one way or another,  
Not just as a wife not just as a mother.  
For all of us you gave your best,  
Now the time has come for you to rest.  
So go in peace \_\_\_\_\_, you've earned your sleep,  
Your love in our hearts, we'll eternally keep.

**55. Footprints**

**One night a man had a dream.**

He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord.  
Across the sky flashed scenes from his life,  
for each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
one belonging to him the other to the Lord.  
When the last scene of his life flashed before him,  
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
He noticed that many times along the path of his life  
there were only one set of footprints.  
He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest  
and saddest times in his life.  
This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.  
“Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,

you would walk with me all the way.  
But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times  
in my life there is only one set of footprints.  
I do not understand why when I needed you most you would leave me?"  
The Lord replied "My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you.  
During your times of trial and suffering  
when you see only one set of footprints it was then that I carried you.

56. *When I come to the end of my journey and I travel my last weary mile,*  
just forget, if you can, that I ever frowned and remember only the smile.  
Forget unkind words I have spoken; remember some good I have done.  
Forget that I've stumbled and blundered and sometimes fell by the way.  
Remember I have fought some hard battles  
and won at the close of the day.  
Forget to grieve for my going; I would not have you sad for a day.  
But in summer just gather some flowers  
and remember the place where I lay,  
and come in the shade of the evening  
when the sun paints the sky in the west.  
Stand for a few moments beside me and remember only my best.

57. *"The moral of this, as my tale I unfold,*  
That for you and for me who are growing old  
It's better to say 'I'm fine' with a grin  
Than to let folk know the shape we are in.  
How do I know that my youth is all spent?  
Well, my get-up-and-go has got up and went.  
But I don't really mind when I think with a grin,  
Of all of the places my 'get up' has been.  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits  
And I pick up the paper and read the 'obits.'  
If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead  
So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed!"

58. *When you think of my life on earth and all those loving years,*  
because you're only human, they are bound to bring you tears.  
But do not be afraid to cry - it does relieve the pain.  
Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain.  
I wish that I could tell you all what God has planned,  
but if were to tell you, you wouldn't understand.  
Yet one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is o'er,  
I am closer to you now, than I ever was before.  
And to my many friends, trust God knows what is best,  
I am still not very far away from you; I'm just beyond the crest.  
There are many rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb.

But together we can do it, by taking one day at a time.  
It was always my philosophy and I'd like it for yours too  
that as you give unto the world, so the world will give to you.  
If you can help somebody who's in sorrow or in pain,  
then you can say to god at night, my day was not in vain.

59. This is what a man likes: a blue sky and a stream.  
The lily pads of yonder and the shore with gold a gleam.  
The west wind gently blowing for when the fishing's sure —  
A friend to share the glory and a bass to take the lure.  
This is what a man likes, a day away from things,  
A day where dreams are golden and malice never stings.  
A friend to read his heart to, who'll keep the tale secure,  
A reel that's running freely and a bass to take the lure.  
This is what a man likes, a chance to test this skill,  
The hazard of disaster and a struggle's surging thrill,  
The joy of honest hunger and hardships to endure,  
The gulls to fly above him and a bass to take the lure.  
This is what a man likes: a friend to share his boat,  
The freedom of the open, an old and shabby coat.  
For all the aches of failure, 'tis here he finds a cure,  
A good day made for fishing, and a bass to take the lure.

60. The Lord saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be,  
so He put his arms around you and whispered; 'Come with me.'  
With tearful eyes we watched you suffer and saw you fade away  
although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating, your beautiful smile at rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove He always takes the best.  
It's lonesome here without you, we miss you so each day.  
Our lives just aren't the same ever since you went away.  
When days are sad and lonely and everything goes wrong,  
we hear you gently whisper, 'Cheer up and carry on'.  
Each time we see your picture, you seem to smile and say,  
'Don't cry, I'm in God's keeping, we'll meet again someday'.

61. God looked around his garden And He found an empty place.  
And then He looked down upon the earth, and saw your tired face. He put His  
arms around you, and lifted you to rest. God's garden must be beautiful, He  
always takes the best. He knew that you were suffering, He knew you were in  
pain, He knew that you would never Get well on earth again. He saw the road  
was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb, So He closed your weary  
eyelids, And whispered, "Peace be thine." It broke our hearts to lose you  
but you didn't go alone, for part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.

62. Many people will walk in and out of your life,  
But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.  
To handle yourself, use your head;  
To handle others, use your heart.  
Anger is only one letter short of danger.  
If someone betrays you once, it is his fault;  
If he betrays you twice, it is your fault.  
Great minds discuss ideas;  
Average minds discuss events;  
Small minds discuss people.  
He who loses money, loses much;  
He who loses a friend, loses much more;  
He who loses faith, loses all.  
Beautiful young people are accidents of nature,  
But beautiful old people are works of art.  
Learn from the mistakes of others.  
You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.  
Friends, you and me ... You brought another friend ...  
And then there were 3.  
We started our group ... Our circle of friends ...  
And like that circle ...  
There is no beginning or end ...  
Yesterday is history.  
Tomorrow is mystery.  
Today is a gift.

***Words of Eleanor Roosevelt***

64. Under the wide and starry sky  
Dig the grave and let me lie  
Glad did I live and gladly die,  
And I lay me down with a will.  
Be this the verse you grave for me  
Here he lies where he longed to be  
Home is the sailor, home from the sea  
And the hunter home from the hill

***Requiem, Robert Louis Stevenson***

65. The footprints of my life  
Have stretched an endless mile and more  
Some are light and dainty  
And some drag in lines bitterly sore  
Odd ones reflect me floating  
When love sweetly carried me

Occasionally there are none  
As friends or god carried me see  
I just hope that some of these imprints  
Stay in hearts for a while  
More so that they bring some folk  
Cheeriness or a sweet smile  
Today these footprints are missed  
As they walk towards life's final end  
Footprints to clouds up to heaven  
And love to my family send  
I so hope my kids and grandkids  
May cherish my footprints at heart  
I'm hoping my gentle footprints  
Have helped others make a good start  
Footprints through life they leave imprints  
Don't anyone ever forget  
Leave footprints sweet as an angel  
In lives in all that you'll have met  
In case I never get chance for goodbye  
In case I get no wings to fly  
Don't grieve over my life long footprints  
Nor sit in thought with a sigh  
Just know that they lasted a lifetime  
Wherever they're destined to head  
I'm grateful they lasted long enough  
To reach all readers, as they were led

#### 66. Epitaph of a tired woman

Here lies a poor woman,  
who was so very tired,  
She lived in a house  
where help was not hired,  
Her last words on earth,  
were dear friends I'm going  
Where washing ain't done,  
nor sweeping, nor sewing  
But everything there is,  
just to my wishes  
For where they don't eat  
there's no washing dishes  
I'll be where loud anthems  
will always be ringing,  
But having no voice  
I'll be clear of the singing  
Don't mourn for me now,

don't mourn for me never  
I'm going to do nothing for ever and ever...

**Anne McGuninnes – used with permission**

67. We cannot judge a biography by its length,  
Nor by the number of pages in it.  
But judge it by the richness of its contents  
sometimes those unfinished are among the most poignant...  
We cannot judge a song by its duration  
nor by the number of its notes  
But Judge it by the way it touched and lifted our souls  
Sometimes those unfinished are among the most beautiful...  
And when something has enriched your life  
and when its melody lingers on in your heart  
Is it unfinished?  
Or is it endless?

68. Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air. . . .  
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew —  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

**John Gillespie Magee**

69. Give me a rod of the split bamboo,  
a rainy day and a fly or two,  
a mountain stream where the eddies play,  
and mists hang low o'er the winding way,  
Give me a haunt by the furling brook,  
A hidden spot in a mossy nook,  
No sound save hum of the drowsy bee,  
or lone bird's tap on the hollow tree.  
The world may roll with its busy throng,  
and phantom scenes on its way along,

its stocks may rise, or its stocks may fall,  
Ah! What care I for its baubles all?

I cast my fly o'er the troubled rill,  
Luring the beauties by magic skill,  
With mind at rest and a heart at ease,  
And drink delight at the balmy breeze.  
A lusty trout to my glad surprise,  
Speckled and bright on the crest arise,  
Then splash and plunge in a dazzling whirl,  
Hope springs anew as the wavelets curl.  
Gracefully swinging from left to right,  
Action so gentle- motion so slight,  
Tempting, enticing, on craft intent,  
Till yielding tip by the game is bent  
Drawing in slowly, then letting go  
Under the ripples where mosses grow  
Doubting my fortune, lost in a dream,  
Blessing the land of forest and stream

### ***Eunice Lamberton***

#### **70. I believe in death - I believe it is a part of life.**

I believe we are born to die - to die that we might live more fully,  
born to die a little each day - to selfishness, to pretence, to sin.  
I believe that every time we pass from one stage of life to another,  
something in us dies and something is born anew.  
I believe we taste death in moments of loneliness and rejection,  
in moments of sorrow and disappointment ;  
when we are afraid, lose courage and give up,  
when we see our dreams broken  
and every time we say goodbye.  
I believe, to, that we are dying before our time  
when we live in bitterness, in hatred and in isolation.  
I believe that each day we are creating our death by the way we live.  
But to those who have faith, death is a gateway, a gateway to eternal life.

#### **71. Death is nothing at all...**

I have only slipped away into the next room.  
I am I, and you are you.  
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still  
Call me by my old familiar name,  
Speak to me in the easy way you always used.  
Put no difference into your tone  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.  
Laugh as we always laughed

at the little jokes we enjoyed together.  
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was  
Let it be spoken without effort, without the ghost of a shadow on it.  
Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was; there is absolutely unbroken continuity....  
Why should I be out of your mind because I am out of sight?  
I am waiting for you for an interval,  
Somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well

***Canon Henry Scott Holland***

**72. Do not stand at my grave and weep**

I am not there, I do not sleep  
I am a 1,000 winds that blow  
I am the diamond glints on snow  
I am the sun on ripened grain  
I am the gentle autumn rain  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled light  
I am the soft star that shines at night  
Do not stand at my grave and cry - I am not there; I did not die.

***Mary Frye***

**73. I am standing on the sea shore,**

A ship sails in the morning breeze and starts for the ocean.  
She is an object of beauty and I stand watching her  
Till at last she fades on the horizon  
and someone at my side says: "She is gone."  
Gone! Where?  
Gone from my sight that is all.  
She is just as large in the masts,  
hull and spars as she was when I saw her  
And just as able to bear her load of living freight to its destination.  
The diminished size and total loss of sight is in me, not in her.  
And just at the moment  
when someone at my side says, "She is gone",  
There are others who are watching her coming,  
and other voices take up a glad shout: "There she comes"  
- and that is dying. It is a horizon at the limits of our sight.  
Lift us up, Oh Lord, that we may see further.

#### 74. Birth is a beginning

And death a destination- But life is a journey  
A going — a growing  
From stage to stage  
From childhood to maturity  
And youth to age.  
From innocence to awareness  
And ignorance to knowing;  
From foolishness to discretion  
And then perhaps, to wisdom.  
From Weakness to strength  
Or strength to weakness  
And, often, back again.  
From health to sickness  
And back we pray, to health again.  
From offense to forgiveness,  
From loneliness to love,  
From joy to gratitude,  
From pain to compassion,  
And grief to understanding —  
From fear to faith.  
From defeat to defeat to defeat —  
Until, looking backward or ahead,  
We see that victory lies  
Not as some high place along the way,  
But in having made the journey, stage by stage.  
A sacred pilgrimage.  
Birth is a beginning - And death a destination.  
But life is a journey, A sacred pilgrimage —  
Made stage by stage — To life everlasting.

#### 75. Look for me when the tide is high

And the gulls are wheeling overhead  
When the autumn wind sweeps the cloudy sky  
And one by one the leaves are shed  
Look for me when the trees are bare  
And the stars are bright in the frosty sky  
When the morning mist hangs on the air  
And shorter darker days pass by.  
I am there, where the river flows  
And salmon leap to a silver moon  
Where the insects hum and the tall grass grows  
And sunlight warms the afternoon  
I am there in the busy street  
I take you hand in the city square

In the market place where the people meet  
In your quiet room – I am there  
I am the love you cannot see  
And all I ask is – look for me.

***Iris Hesselden***

76. Well it's sure been a bit of a week,  
but don't sit there with that tear on your cheek,  
as while you've been crying, since you heard of me dying  
for me things have never been bleak.  
So I wrote you this rhyme to tell of my time  
at the Undertakers since I've been dead,  
I've had so much fun, even has my hair done,  
And I slept in a nice wooden bed.  
They looked after me awfully well  
Washed, and dressed me, and 'boy' I looked swell  
though I felt a bit silly, cos their gowns were quite frilly  
but they covered my modesty well.  
Then they fastened my box, with a lid and some locks  
on the top was a shiny gold plaque.  
Then they lifted each side, for my final ride  
in the hearse with the smart men in black.  
In procession we rode, to my final abode,  
in a sparkly black limousine car  
The journey was slow, although not far to go,  
and I felt like a real superstar.  
When we got to the Chapel, I listened with glee  
of all the great stories they all told of me.  
So please don't be sad now my journey is done,  
but remember my humour, my laughter and fun.

***Terri Shanks***

77. My father kept a garden,  
A garden of the heart,  
he planted all the good things there  
That gave my life it's start.  
He turned me into sunshine  
and encouraged me to dream  
Fostering and nurturing  
The seeds of self esteem  
And when the winds and rain came  
He protected me enough  
but not too much because he knew

I'd need to stand up strong and tough  
His constant good example  
always taught me right from wrong  
markers for my pathway  
That will last a lifetime long

I am now my Fathers garden,  
I am his legacy  
And I hope today he feels the love reflected back from me.

### 78. In one breath

Loving you came easy  
Through the seasons of your life  
The welcoming signs of spring pushing through  
Winter's blanket of darkness - was your smile  
Like the shawl of warmth on summers  
first day – was your embrace  
Autumn's changing tones and views – was your patience  
The crackle underfoot on a sky blue winter's day making  
Foot steps glisten and sparkle - was your joy and laughter  
Missing you is so very hard  
It is a pain so intense that I feel its sharpness  
At every turning glance, glimpsing shadows  
At the door way without your silhouette  
At the chair where you once sat  
At your favourite cup now collecting dust  
The touch of silence that has shrouded the house  
But loving you, even when your are not here  
Can and will come easy - as life's seasons change  
There is and never will be, a day that will pass without the thought of you and  
your loving  
As I will Love and Miss you always  
In one breath

### 79. Gone Too Soon

Like A Comet  
Blazing 'Cross The Evening Sky  
Gone Too Soon  
Like A Rainbow  
Fading In The Twinkling Of An Eye  
Gone Too Soon  
Shiny And Sparkly  
And Splendidly Bright  
Here One Day

Gone One Night  
Like The Loss Of Sunlight  
On A Cloudy Afternoon  
Gone Too Soon

Like A Castle  
Built Upon A Sandy Beach  
Gone Too Soon  
Like A Perfect Flower  
That Is Just Beyond Your Reach  
Gone Too Soon  
Born To Amuse, To Inspire, To Delight  
Here One Day  
Gone One Night  
Like A Sunset  
Dying With The Rising Of The Moon  
Gone Too Soon

#### 80. Place me in your memory

Do not linger on me  
Wasting days hoping  
on my return  
I will not come here again  
Do not silence my name  
Speak of me when friends  
Gather and in family times  
Of love  
Make me everlasting  
In the spirit of your being  
For through all the days  
of living  
I lived better for your love  
Don't martyr me or angel me  
Of my bad points don't be hard  
on me  
And wipe your tears and weep  
no more for me  
Let me survive in your memory

#### 81. Her smile is in the summer

her grace is in the breeze  
She did not leave, she has not gone  
'tis only we that grieve  
It doesn't take a special day

to bring you to our mind  
A day without a thought of you  
is very hard to find  
No longer here in our lives to share  
but in our hearts you're always there  
The parting and the heartaches  
no one can heal  
But the memories are for safe keeping  
so no one can steal

### 82. If I could have you back for just one day

If I could have you back for just one day,  
There would be so many things I would love to say,  
If I could be with you for one whole day,  
To hold you close and know that you really are okay,  
If I had known that you would be gone forever,  
If I had known all those ties were going to be severed,  
If I had known the pain, the loss and the ache,  
If I had known the difference without you would make.  
In the darkness you slipped away from us all,  
Now it's just your memories that we have to recall,  
They say that parting is such sweet sorrow,  
But it's the longing, the wondering, and how to cope with tomorrow,  
They say that grieving a child is the very worst,  
Because life's plan is that the parents go first,  
Now all we have left are memories, the good times we had,  
We spend so much time in tears, pain and feeling so sad,  
So if we could have you back for just one day,  
You could let us know how to cope until we meet again some day,  
When we'll be together as a family again  
when we'll be happy and free from this awful pain,  
Oh it's hard to live when your child has to die,  
Then to spend the rest of your life trying to say goodbye.

### 83. Something happened yesterday,

I let my daughter go,  
I felt the darkness fade away,  
Though I still loved her so.  
She needed to be free to find  
Her way to peace at last.  
I let her go with love and tears,  
My time with her has passed.  
I mourned my daughter yesterday,  
Then I saw the light,  
It was the time to say, "Thank you my love,

You can leave, its OK, its right."  
I felt a weight drop off my mind,  
My baby's pain had gone,  
her new beginnings started then,  
No time for me to mourn.  
Time for what she wanted to be,  
With total peace of mind.  
It seems my grief was holding her back  
From leaving this world behind,  
She needed to go to a better place,  
To rest in peace above.  
I couldn't keep her here with me,  
So I gave her my blessings and love.

#### 84. Tomorrow I'll see...

The new dawn arise to greet a sleepy new world  
with cloudless blue skies

...Not Today

Tomorrow I'll see...

The birds in their nests tending their young  
with their sweet morning song

The flowers in spring dancing and swaying  
in the soft gentle breeze

...Not Today

Tomorrow I'll see...

The branches on trees turning from brown to green  
with each opening bud

The laughter of children dancing and singing  
in emerald green fields

...Not Today

Tomorrow I'll see...

The setting of the sun over the calm crystal waters  
saying goodbye with golden red hues

The diamond bright stars in the midnight blue velvet  
twinkling good night to the world

...Not Today

Tomorrow I'll see...

What today hides from me but

...Not Today

#### 85. Into the darkness and warmth of the earth

We lay you down

Into the sadness and smiles of our memories

We lay you down

Into the cycle of living and dying and rising again

We lay you down  
May you rest in peace, in fulfilment, in loving  
May you run straight home in God's embrace  
Into the freedom of wind and sunshine  
We let you go  
Into the dance of the stars and the planets  
We let you go  
Into the wind's breath and the hands of the star maker  
We let you go  
We love you, we miss you, we want you to be happy  
Go safely, go dancing, go running home.

**86. Sometimes, when the sun goes down,**  
It seems it will never rise again ...but it will!

Sometimes, when you feel alone,  
It seems your heart will break in two ...but it won't.  
And sometimes, it seems it's hardly worthwhile carrying on ...but it is.  
For sometimes, when the sun goes down,  
It seems it will never rise again...But it does.

**87. The world may never notice**  
If a snowdrop doesn't bloom,  
Or even pause to wonder  
If the petals fall too soon.  
But every life that ever forms,  
Or ever comes to be,  
Touches the world in some small way  
For all eternity.

**88. That man is a success**  
who has lived well,  
laughed often and loved much;  
who has gained the respect  
of intelligent men and women  
and the love of children;  
who has filled his niche  
and accomplished his task;  
who leaves the world better  
than he found it,  
who has never lacked appreciation  
of earth's beauty  
or failed to express it;  
who looked for the best in others  
and gave the best he had.

### 89. Your mother is always with you...

She's the whisper of the leaves  
as you walk down the street.  
She's the smell of bleach in  
your freshly laundered socks.  
She's the cool hand on your  
brow when you're not well.  
Your mother lives inside your laughter.  
She's crystallised in every tear drop...  
She's the place you came from,  
you're first home..  
She's the map you follow with every step that you take.  
She's your first love and your first heartbreak....  
and nothing on earth can separate you.  
Not time, not space... not even death....  
will ever separate you from your mother....  
You carry her inside you....

### 90. May I go now?

Do you think the time is right?  
May I say good-bye to pain filled days  
and endless lonely nights?  
I have fought the good fight, I have  
finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
I've lived my life and, in faith, done my best  
an example tried to be.  
So can I take that step beyond  
and set my spirit free?  
I didn't want to go at first.  
I fought with all my might.  
But something seems to draw me now  
to warm and loving light.  
I want to go. I really do.  
It's very difficult to stay.  
But I will try as best I can  
to live just one more day.  
To give you more times to care for me  
and share your love and fears.  
I know you're sad and afraid,  
because I see your tears.  
I'll not be far,  
I promise that and hope you'll always know  
that my spirit will be close to you  
wherever you may go.

Thank you so for loving me.  
You know I love you too,  
that's why it's hard to say good-bye  
and end this life with you.  
So hold me now, just one more time  
and let me hear you say,  
because you care so much for me,  
you'll let me go today.

91. We must live through the weary winter,  
If we would value the Spring.  
And the woods must be cold and silent,  
Before the robins sing.  
The flowers must be buried in darkness,  
Before they can bud and bloom.  
And the sweetest and warmest sunshine,  
Comes after the storm and gloom.  
So the heart, from the hardest trial,  
Gains the purest joy of all.  
And from the lips that have tasted sadness,  
The sweetest songs will fall.  
For as peace comes after suffering,  
And love is reward of pain,  
So, after earth, comes heaven,  
And out of our loss, the gain.

92. Life is not measured by the breaths we take,  
but by the moments that take our breath away.

93. Whoever makes a garden  
Has never worked alone.  
The rain has always found it  
The sun has always known.  
The wind has blown across it  
And helped to scatter seeds.  
Whoever makes a garden  
Should surely not complain,  
With someone like the sunshine  
And someone like the rain.  
And someone like the breezes  
To aid her in her toil.  
And someone likes the father  
who gave the garden soil.  
Whoever makes a garden  
Has, oh, so many friends,  
The glory of the morning,

The dew when daylight ends.  
For wind and rain and sunshine,  
And dew and fertile sod  
And she who makes a garden  
Works hand in hand with God.

#### 94. – poem for dementia sufferers

You used to know us once mum; you used to say our names.  
We were so close together, before your illness came.  
We shared our tears and laughter, our rapport was so good.  
We only had to catch your eye, and you always understood.

But now you don't remember, we see that vacant gaze.  
To you we are just strangers, who help you through your days.  
We try not to let it hurt us, and of course it does.  
We only hope you understand the measure of our love.  
Sometimes we sense the "old you", a smile, a laugh, a touch.  
If only you could say our names, that would mean so much.

95. My life is but a weaving  
between my Lord and me;  
I cannot choose the colours  
He weaves so steadily.  
Often He weaves in sorrow  
But I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I, the lower side.  
But the dark threads are as needful  
in the weaver's skilful hand  
as the threads of gold and silver  
in the pattern He has planned.  
Not till the loom is silent  
and the bobbins cease to fly,  
Shall He unroll the canvas  
and explain the reason why.

96. And if I go,  
While you're still here...  
Know that I live on,  
Vibrating to a different measure  
-behind a thin veil you cannot see through.

I wait for the time when we can soar together again,  
-both aware of each other.  
Until then, live your life to its fullest.

And when you need me,  
Just whisper my name in your heart,  
...I will be there.

### 97. The Four Candles

The first candle represents our grief.  
The pain of losing you is intense.  
It reminds us of the depth of our love for you.  
This second candle represents our courage.  
To confront our sorrow,  
To comfort each other,  
To change our lives.  
This third candle we light in your memory.  
For the times we laughed,  
The times we cried,  
The times we were angry with each other,  
The silly things you did,  
The caring and joy you gave us.  
This fourth candle we light for our love.  
We light this candle that your light will always shine.  
As we enter this holiday season and share this night of remembrance  
with our family and friends.  
We cherish the special place in our hearts  
that will always be reserved for you.  
We thank you for the gift  
your living brought to each of us.  
We love you.  
We remember you.

### 98. Though we never know

Where life will take us,  
I know it's just a ride  
On the wheel.  
And we never know  
When death will shake us  
And we wonder how  
It will feel.  
So Goodbye my friend.  
I know I'll never see you again.  
But the time together  
Through all the years,  
Will take away these tears.  
Its OK now - Goodbye my friend.  
I see a lot of things

That makes me crazy,  
And I guess I held on to you,  
You could have run away  
And left - well maybe,  
But it wasn't time  
And we both knew.  
So Goodbye My friend.  
I know I'll never see you again.  
But the love you gave me  
Through all the years  
Will take away these tears.  
I'm OK now - Goodbye my friend.

99. We thought of you with love today.

But that is nothing new.  
We thought about you yesterday.  
And days before that too.  
We think of you in silence.  
We often speak your name.  
Now all we have is memories.  
And your picture in a frame.  
Your memory is our keepsake.  
With which we'll never part.  
God has you in his keeping.  
We have you in our heart..

100. To "let go" does not mean to stop caring.

It means I can't do it for someone else.  
To "let go" is not to cut myself off.  
It's the realization that I can't control another.  
To "let go" is to admit powerlessness,  
which means the outcome is not in my hands.  
To "let go" is not to try to change or blame another.  
It's to make the most of myself.  
To "let go" is not to care for, but to care about.  
To "let go" is not to fix, but to be supportive.  
To "let go" is not to judge,  
but to allow another to be a human being.  
To "let go" is not to be in the middle,  
arranging all the outcomes,  
but to allow others to affect their own destinies.  
To "let go" is not to deny, but to accept.  
To "let go" is not to nag, scold, or argue,  
but instead to search out my own shortcomings and correct them.  
To "let go" is not to adjust everything to my desires,

but to take each day as it comes and cherish myself in it.  
To "let go" is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future.  
To "let go" is to fear less and to love more.



Bespoke Civil Ceremonies is the leading Civil Funeral Ceremony company in Scotland and was established by Neil Dorward and Clare Bonucchi in 2005. We have created the highest standards of excellence within the Civil Funeral profession. We are consistently rated as the 'best' by families and Funeral Directors.

Our philosophy at Bespoke Civil Ceremonies is simple: "To give families the service they deserve". Each family has different needs, that is why we create personal tributes which embody this uniqueness.

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- **HAVE FAITH IN** to transform words from a bit of paper are not just words but are brought alive and touch people's hearts and souls on the day
- **TRUST TO CELEBRATE** your loved one's legacy and leave people feeling 'that was the best funeral service I have ever been at'
- **DELIVER THE HIGHEST STANDARDS** because he has been professionally trained and recognised by UK and international professionals

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