

BCE Memorials

Memorial Prayer & Verse Samples

We have a large selection of prayers, poems and verses available. We welcome the use of favorite prayers, notes, song lyrics, expressions, quotes, etc., that may help personalize your loved one's Memorial Card.

1

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

~ optional additional text ~

For Thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory.
For ever and ever. Amen.

2

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee,
Blessed art thou
amongst women,
And blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour
of our death.
Amen.*

3

MEMORARE
Remember O most
compassionate Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled
to your protection,
implored your assistance,
or sought your intercession
was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence,
we fly unto you,
O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother;
to you we come;
before you we kneel
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not our petitions,
but in your clemency
hear and answer them.
Amen.

4

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord make me
an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I
may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning
that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.

5

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd;
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down
in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters:
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for Thou art with me; thy rod and
thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in
the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of
the Lord for ever.

6a

An Irish Blessing

*May the road rise up
to meet you.
May the wind be always
at your back,
May the sun shine warm
upon your face,
And rains fall soft
upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
in the palm of His hand.*

6b

An Irish Blessing

*May the road rise up
to meet you.
May the wind be always
at your back,
May the sun shine warm
upon your face,
And rains fall soft
upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
May God hold you
in the palm of His hand.*

God's Garden

God looked around His garden,
and found an empty space.
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
for he only takes the best.
He knew that you were weary,
and he knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never be
well on earth again.
He saw the roads were getting rough,
and the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids,
and whispered, "peace be thine."

10

Serenity Prayer

*God grant me
the serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change,
courage to change
the things I can,
and the wisdom
to know the difference.*

13

You are not forgotten, loved one
Nor will you ever be,
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee.
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 fill your vacant place.

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free. I'm
following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call.
I turned my back and left it all. I could
not stay another day, to laugh, to love,
to work or play. Tasks left undone must
stay that way. I've found that peace at
the close of day. If my parting has left
a void, then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
ah, yes, these things I too shall miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved ones
touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too
brief. Don't lengthen it now with undue
grief. Lift up your hearts and share with
me. God wanted me now; He set me free.

11

God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be
So he put His arms around you
And whispered "Come to me."

With tearful eyes we watched you
As you slowly slipped away
And though we loved you dearly
We couldn't make you stay.

Your golden heart stopped beating
Your tired hands put to rest
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.

14

When through one man
a little more love and goodness,
a little more light and truth
come into the world
then that man's life
has had meaning.

~ or ~

When through one woman
a little more love and goodness,
a little more light and truth
come into the world
then that woman's life
has had meaning.

Do not stand

*at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow;
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight
on the ripened grain;
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken
in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there, I did not die.*

12

In tears we saw you sinking
We watched you fade away,
You suffered much in silence,
You fought so hard to stay.
You faced your task with courage
You felt your hope descend,
But still you kept on fighting
Until the very end.
God saw you getting tired,
When a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around you,
And whispered, "Come with Me."
So when we saw you sleeping
So peaceful, free from pain,
We could not wish you back,
To suffer that again.

15

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one
I'd like to leave an afterglow
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
Of happy memories that I leave
When life is done.

**To those I love,
and those who love me**

When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
be happy that we had so many years.
I gave you my love, you can only
guess how much you gave to me in
happiness. I thank you for the love you
each have shown, but now it's time I
traveled on alone. So grieve awhile for
me, if grieve you must then let your
grief be comforted by trust. It's only for
a while that we must part so bless the
memories within your heart. I won't be
far away, for life goes on, so if you need
me, call, and I will come, though you
can't see or touch me, I'll be near, and
if you listen with your heart you will
hear all of my love around you soft and
clear. And then, when you must come
this way alone, I'll greet you with a smile
and open arms, "Welcome Home."

You can only have one mother,
Patient, kind and true.
No other friend in all the world,
Will be the same to you.
When other friends forsake you,
To mother you will turn,
For all her loving kindness,
She asks nothing in return,
As we look upon her picture,
Sweet memories we recall,
Of a face so full of sunshine,
And a smile for one and all.
Sweet Jesus, take this message,
To our dear mother up above;
Tell her how we miss her,
And give her all our love.

A Fisherman's Prayer

God, grant that I may fish
Until my dying day,
And when it comes to
My last cast
I then most humbly pray,
When in the Lord's
Soft landing net
I'm peacefully asleep.
That in His mercy I be judged
As good enough to keep.

Success

*To laugh often and much,
to win the respect
of intelligent people,
and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation
of honest critics,
and endure the betrayal
of false friends;
To appreciate beauty,
to find the best in others;
To leave the world a lot better,
whether by healthy child,
a garden patch,
or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life
has breathed easier,
because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded.*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

A father lies in peaceful sleep,
His earthly cares are o'er;
And we who are left
to mourn him,
Will see his smile no more.
But he is not gone forever,
We shall meet him once again;
In the cloudless land
with God above,
Where happiness knows no end.
We need not weep or shed a tear,
For the days are near at hand;
When we again will see him,
In that ever-promised land.

A Golfer's Prayer

*Lord, when my last putt has
dropped into the cup and the
light of my last day has faded,
may I be able to turn in to you,
a scorecard to show
I did my best.*

Safely Home

I am home in heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in heaven at last.

There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth—
You shall rest in God's own land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!

We little knew that morning,
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,
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by 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.

Eternal rest give unto him,
O Lord, and let perpetual
Light shine upon him.

~ or ~

Eternal rest grant unto her,
O Lord, and let perpetual
Light shine upon her.

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 was 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'd 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 don't 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."

Journey

*Don't think of **him/her**
as gone away—
his/her journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets—
this earth is only one.
Just think of **him/her** as resting
from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.
Think how **he/she** must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.
And think of **him/her** as living
in the hearts of those **he/she** touched
for nothing loved is ever lost—
and **he/she** was loved so much.*

REMEMBER ME

*Do not shed tears when I have gone,
but smile instead because I have lived.*

*Do not shut your eyes and pray to God
that I'll come back, but open your eyes
and see all that I have left behind.*

*I know your heart will be empty because
you cannot see me, but still, I want you
to be full of the love we shared.*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow
and live only for yesterday or you can
be happy for tomorrow because of what
happened between us yesterday.*

*You can remember me and grieve that
I have gone or you can cherish my
memory and let it live on.*

*You can cry and lose yourself become
distraught and turn your back on the
world or you can do what I want—
smile, wipe away the tears, learn to love
again, and go on.*

A Policeman's Prayer

*Dear Lord, be with me on my beat.
This day and every day.
Grant that each weary block I walk
May ease a brother's way.
Let me be kindly to the old
And to the young be strong,
But let me be triumph over those
Whose acts are cruel and wrong.
And when my own last summons comes
And I stand in your Court,
Lord, may my rest with you be long
My punishment be short.*

*A light from our household is gone,
A voice we loved is stilled,
A place is vacant in our home,
That never can be filled.
Lonely is the home without you,
Life to us is not the same;
All the world would be like heaven,
If we could have you back again.
The happy hours we once enjoyed,
How sweet their memory still,
But death has left a vacant place,
This world can never fill.
How dearly we loved you,
And prayed that you might live,
But Jesus just beckoned,
And we had to give.
God gave us strength to bear it,
And courage to fight the blow,
What it has meant to lose you,
God alone will only know.
May the God of love and mercy,
Care for our loved one who is gone,
And bless with consolation,
Those left to carry on.*

A Firefighter's Prayer

*When I am called to duty, God,
whenever flames may rage,
Give me the strength to save some life,
whatever be its age.
Help me embrace a little child
before it is too late,
Or save an older person
from the horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert
and hear the weakest shout,
And quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out.
I want to fulfill my calling
and to give the best in me,
To guard my every neighbor
and protect his property.
And if, according to my fate,
I am to lose my life,
Please bless with Your protecting hand
the special people in my life.*

Dream

As long as we can dream
as long as we can think,
as long as we have a memory...
we will love you.

As long as we have eyes to see,
and ears to hear, and lips to speak...
we will love you.

As long as we have a heart
to feel a soul stirring within us,
an imagination to hold you...
we will love you. As long as there
is time, as long as there is love,
as long as we have a breath to
speak your name...we will love you,
because we loved you more than
anything in all the world.

May
the angels lead
thee into paradise.
May the choir of
angels receive thee,
May thou have
eternal rest.

~ or ~

May the angels
lead you into Paradise;
may the Martyrs welcome you
at your coming,
and take you to the holy city,
the new and eternal Jerusalem.

May the Souls of all
the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.

***Our family chain
is broken,
Nothing seems
the same,
But as God calls us
one by one,
The links
shall join again.***

***May the Good Lord
bless and keep you...***

***May you walk
in sunlight shining...***

***Fill your dreams
with sweet tomorrows,***

***Never mind what
might have been.***

***May the Good Lord
bless and keep you
until we meet again.***

SUSCIPE

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours;
do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace,
that is enough for me.

Loving and kind
in all **his/her** ways,
upright and just
to the end of **his/her** days;
Sincere and true
in **his/her** heart and mind,
a beautiful memory
he/she left behind.
He/She had a nature
you could not help loving,
a heart that was purer than gold;
And to those who knew **him/her**
and loved **him/her**,
his/her memory
will never grow cold.

Fill not your hearts
with pain and sorrow,
but remember me in every tomorrow.

Remember the joy,
the laughter, the smiles,
I've only gone to rest a little while.

Although my leaving
causes pain and grief,
my going has eased my hurt
and given me relief.
So dry your eyes and remember me,
not as I am now, but as I used to be.

Because, I will remember you all
and look on with a smile.

Understand, in your hearts,
I've only gone to rest a little while.

As long as I have
the love of each of you,
I can live my life
in the hearts of all of you.

***Lord, teach me to be generous
Teach me to serve you as you deserve
To give and not to count the cost
To fight and not to heed the wounds
To toil and not to seek for rest
To labor and not to ask for any reward
Save that of knowing that
I am doing your will.***

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

*She's in the sun, the wind, the rain,
she's in the air you breathe
with every breath you take.
She sings a song of hope and cheer,
there's no more pain, no more fear.
You'll see her in the clouds above,
hear her whisper words of love.
You'll be together before long,
until then listen for her song.*

—Christy Ann Martine

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 still are. Call me by my old familiar name. Speak to me in the easy way you always used to. Put no difference into your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we have always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play and smile, and think of me. Pray for me. Let my name be the household name it always was. Let it be spoken without a shadow of a ghost in it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was. What is death but a negligible accident. Why should I be out of your mind just because I am out of your sight? All is well, nothing is lost. But for one brief moment more and we shall be just as we were before.

Carmelite Monastery
Tallow, County Waterford, Ireland

PEACE

Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear. Rather look to them with full hope that, as they arise, God will deliver you out of them. He has kept you hitherto, hold fast to His dear hand, and He will lead you safely through all things; and, when you cannot stand, He will bear you in his arms.

Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father, who cares for you today, will take care of you tomorrow and everyday. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination.

—St. Francis de Sales

The Road Not Taken

By Robert Frost

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

*Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,*

*And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.*

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then, someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!" "Gone where?" Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear the load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There, she is gone!" There are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!" And that is dying.

—Henry Van Dyke

Padre Nuestro

*Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo.
Santificado sea tu nombre.
Venga tu reino.
Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra
como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación y
líbranos del mal.*

*Tuyo es el Reino el Poder y la
Gloria por Siempre Señor*

Amén

Ojcze nasz

(The Lord's Prayer, Polish)

*Ojcze nasz, któryś jest w niebie
święć się imię Twoje;
przyjdź królestwo Twoje;
bądź wola Twoja jako
w niebie tak i na ziemi;
chleba naszego powszedniego
daj nam dzisiaj;
i odpuść nam nasze winy,
jako i my odpuszczamy
naszym winowajcom;
i nie wódź nas na pokuszenie;
ale nas zbaw od złego.*

Protestant Prayer & Verse Samples

46

HE LEADETH ME

He leadeth me; O blessed thought;
O words with heavenly comfort fraught;
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
Still God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me; He leadeth me;
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

~ Joseph Gilmore, 1862

47

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our debts as we forgive
our debtors, and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory for ever.
Amen.

48

God hath not promised
skies always blue,
flower-strewn pathways
all our lives through.
God hath not promised
sun without rain,
joy without sorrow,
peace without pain.
But God hath promised
strength for the days,
rest for the labor,
light for the way.
Grace for the trials,
help from above,
unfailing sympathy
undying love.

49

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord,
which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved;
he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord
is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil;
he shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out,
and thy coming in, from this time forth,
and even for ever-more.
(121st Psalm)

50

Let not your heart be troubled;
ye that believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many mansions;
if it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go to prepare a place for you,
I will come again,
and receive you unto myself;
that where I am, there ye may be also.
And whither I go ye know,
and the way ye know.
Thomas saith unto Him,
Lord, we know not whither thou goest;
and how can we know the way?
Jesus saith unto him,
I am the way, and the truth and the life;
no man cometh unto the Father but by me.

(John 14: 1-6)

51

The Lord is my shepherd!
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down
in green pastures; he leadeth me
beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me
in the path of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil.
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days
of my life; and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.

52

Loving Father, put away
All the wrong I've done today;
Make me sorry, true, and good;
Make me love thee as I should;
Make me feel by day and night
I am ever in thy sight.
Heavenly Father, hear my prayer,
Take thy child into thy care;
Let thy angels pure and bright
Watch around me through the night.

Amen.