



Prayers and Thoughts
for the
World Day of
Remembrance
for
Road Crash Victims



About RoadPeace

RoadPeace is a national charity established in 1992 to represent and support bereaved and injured road traffic victims. Most RoadPeace members are also victims so we can provide contact with others who have suffered similar experiences.

We strive to raise awareness of the responsibilities of all road users, particularly drivers of vehicles, in order to bring about the reduction of road danger. We encourage concern for the most vulnerable, notably pedestrians and cyclists, the very young and the elderly.

Dedication

This booklet was printed with funds raised in the memory of
Tim Collins, who was killed aged 32, in July 1998.
'May your heart be happy my angel'

Prayers

Introduction for a Service

We have come together with a common purpose, to remember those who have been killed on our roads, and those who have been injured in body and mind.

In bringing our remembrance before God, we seek his gift of hope.

Let us also have in our minds and hearts all who use the roads, and especially the men and women who work for their safety and well-being, and those who devote themselves to rescue and healing.

Prayer specially composed for RoadPeace

by Donald Macarthur

Lord, God, your love is freely available to all your children, who stand in equal need of your care. Fill us, gathered here today, with your grace and truth, that in all our dealings with one another we may demonstrate that we are members of one family in your sight. We lift up to you in our intercessions those who, for good or ill, use the roads in our country.

We pray for those who have suffered injury as a result of a road crash; those who have suffered permanent injury, and those who care for them; those who have lost confidence and who are unable to use the roads without anxiety; those who grieve for a loved one who has died in a road calamity. Loving God, use us as we are able to comfort and support those who suffer; and what we cannot do for them be pleased yourself to do so that in the mystery of your love they may find peace, and healing and faith.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

We pray for those who tend to be careless in the way that they use the roads and their vehicles. Give them an insight into the risk and danger into which they put other road users through their lack of thought and consideration for the safety of others. Protect them from the agony of knowing that their negligence has brought about injury or death of another person.

We pray for those who build vehicles and those who design and build our roads that they may have the highest objectives in their work. Guide them, and all those whose work is to make our roads safe, with wisdom and understanding, that through their efforts they may achieve the greatest possible measure of safety for all those who use our roads.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

Almighty God, you have put into our hearts that our human duty is to love you and our neighbour as ourself. Give to us, and to all who use the roads, consideration and care for other road users. Grant to those who drive vehicles consideration for others and a determination to avoid driving in ways which could be a danger to others. Give to those who walk or cycle on the roads and those who play beside them thoughtful caution and care.

We pray for those who are travelling today whether by land or sea or in the air. Give them protection on the way and a safe arrival at their destination.

We pray that you will prosper the work of RoadPeace and those who work and support its efforts to make our roads safe for everyone. Make them wise when they speak and prophetic in the life of our nation, as they bring judgement to bear on things that are unjust and destructive of people's lives. Lord protect our children; protect the strong; protect the elderly and the infirm; protect the nation.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

We pray for those who have no peace, the anxious, the frightened, the neglected and the despairing, and for those whose lives have been deprived of home, livelihood and health by insensitive brutality and carelessness of others.

We pray for ourselves, that we may be given grace to share your loving care for us through the attention we can give to others. May we respect the persons you have made without trying to impose our own ideas on them. Help us to praise you in their journeying and to recognise your presence in their lives.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

Prayers from Coventry Cathedral

God bless our roads, that our journeys towards one another may be signs of the deeper journey towards God's promised land.

God bless our vehicles in work and leisure, that they may be used to do His will and enable us to serve our fellow human beings.

God bless us as we use the roads, that in carefulness and courtesy, we may at all times bear witness to the kingdom of heaven.

Are they not all the roads of God? Eternal Father, we offer our lives to you afresh. Give us wisdom; give us carefulness; give us safety and make us glad; for you we come and to you we return now, and at our lives' end.

Eternal God, you are the source of all life and love,
You give us the skill to enhance our lives through the roads that connect us and the vehicles that carry us.

We thank you for all that these gifts represent.
But we confess that we are wounded by them also, by impatience, recklessness and speed.

We are here to remember the victims of road accidents: those who have been killed or injured; their families and friends; the rescue services, and all involved in the work of caring and healing. But we are all victims of road trauma, for we are all affected and hurt by the annual toll of suffering on our roads. So let us offer this fact of our modern world to God, acknowledge our own share in what is wrong, and ask God, through his Son who himself suffered for us, to fill us with his redeeming grace and love.

Let us remember before God all those who are on our hearts today; those whom we have known and loved, and those whose names are unknown to us; those who have lost their lives on the roads; those who have been hurt in their bodies, minds or emotions; and all whose lives have been damaged in any way. Let us commend them to God's infinite mercy and goodness and let us surround them now with our own compassion and love.

From Iona: The Litany "God of Life"

God of life - of all life and of each life - we lay our lives before you, from whom nothing in us is hidden.

You are before us, Lord, you are behind,
You are in the light and in the darkness,
You see our most public face;
You know the secret thoughts of every heart.
We bring the faith that is in us, and the doubt;
We bring the joy that is in us, and the sorrow,
We bring the pride that is in us, and the shame;
We bring the knowledge that is in us, and the ignorance;
We bring the hope that is in us, and the despair;
We bring the courage that is in us, and the fear.
Guide us by your spirit,
Strengthen us in our journey.

Prayer from the Heart

Yahweh, hear my prayer; let my cry for help come to you.
Since I am in trouble, do not conceal your face from me.
Turn and listen to me.
When I call, respond to me quickly.
For my days are vanishing like smoke, my bones burn like fire,
my heart withers like scorched grass; even my appetite is gone.
Yahweh, hear my prayer; let my cry for help come to you.

An Everyday Prayer

Jesus, you wept over Lazarus your friend and over Jerusalem your city,
and we too are deeply saddened by personal tragedy and international disaster.
Show us how we can weep so that we can come alongside others in their darkness rather than judging them for their faults,
as you have done with us and for us in the Father's name.

Prayers by a bereaved mother

Anna Briggs

Creator God, we give You thanks for all that You have made, and for the gift of knowledge, enabling us to share in the works of creation.

We thank You for food and shelter, and for the great discoveries made by humankind - for fire, for the wheel, for wood from the forest and minerals from under the sea.

We praise You for the free will which enables us to make choices.

We meditate now on the choices we have made throughout history - we have used the gifts of the earth to make ploughshares and swords - we have used them to travel and enrich our lives, but also to endanger and destroy the lives of ourselves and others.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

We confess that we have turned our back on wisdom, on the discernment which would help us know good from evil.

We confess that we have created a society in which the freedoms of some are gained at the expense of others, and in which we have fought wars and allowed many to die and be injured to protect those freedoms.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

We have come here today, Loving God, because we are hurting.

We have all been involved in some way in death and injury on the roads.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Let us meditate on how throughout human history we have had choices to make: we are able to put the gifts of God to good use or bad: we may cut a stick to support us - or to strike our neighbour; we invent machines to make life more rich and full, but with which we may destroy ourselves and one another. Lord, you are Father and Mother to us, and have loved us and love us always. Help us to reverence all life that you have given and to find you present in everyone round us.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

O God, through the suffering of Jesus you have shown us how we may be led through pain and despair into new life and hope. Be present with all who are passing now through a time of trial, and give them your strength and your peace.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

O God, we give thanks for those who help when things go wrong, for the motoring organizations, the police and rescue services, the hospitals and all who care for the injured. Give courage to those who minister to the victims of accidents, and help them to minister to those in need as did the great healer, Jesus Christ.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

O God, we thank you that in the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ you have overcome evil and death. Grant that those who minister to the dying and to the bereaved may be upheld by this faith and find in Christ the strength to continue their work.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

We thank You, God of Love, for bringing us together to worship You today: for the opportunity to lay our grief and pain before You, and to be united with others who have been affected by the same loss and pain.

Deo Gratias (Thanks be to God)

We thank you for offering us, in the face of death, the loving care of the living - for those in the emergency services who have tended our loved ones and shown care and compassion to us, for colleagues who have supported us in our work, for those of our friends and relatives, and also for complete strangers, who have come to our aid in times of great need.

Deo Gratias (Thanks be to God)

Cast away from us, God of Light, all the sorrows and shadows of our lives on earth. Bring us to the clear light of day, and where Your light is brought for us in this life, bring us to the searing purity of Your eternal Light and Life.

Deo Gratias (Thanks be to God)

Jewish Prayer

In the rising of the sun and in its going down
 we remember them;
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter
 we remember them;
In the opening of the buds and in the warmth of summer
 we remember them;
In the rustling of the leaves and the beauty of the autumn
 we remember them;
In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
 we remember them;
When we are weary and in need of strength,
 we remember them;
When we have joys we yearn to share,
 we remember them.
So long as we live, they too shall live for they are now a part of us
 as we remember them.

Jewish Reform Prayer Book 'Gate of Prayer'

Benson's Prayer after a Crushing Bereavement

'And lastly to me who am left to mourn his departure, grant that I may not sorrow as one without hope for my beloved who sleeps in Thee; but that, always remembering his courage and the love that united us on earth, I may begin again with new courage to serve Thee more fervently who art the only source of true love and true fortitude; that when I have passed a few more days in this valley of tears and in this shadow of death, supported by Thy rod and staff, I may see him again, face to face in those pastures and amongst those waters where, I trust, he already walks with Thee. Oh Shepherd of the Sheep, have pity on this darkened soul of mine.'

The Motorist's Prayer

Grant me a ready hand, a watchful eye,
 That none may suffer hurt as I pass by.
Thou givest life — I pray no act of mine
 May take away or mar that gift of thine.
Should those, dear Lord, who bear me company.
 From fools and fire and all calamity.
Teach me to use my car for others' need,
 Nor miss through lack of wit or love of speed,
The beauty of Thy world —that this I may,
 With joy and courtesy go on my way.

Geraldine Binnall

Encompassing Presence

Ever present shield, your canopy of stars covers us.
We sense your encompassing presence in the thrill of beauty,
in the urgent claims of the poor and deep within our hearts
the poverty of our response.
O God of the living bring us to our knees.

Spirit of Comfort we search for you in the wakeful dead of night,
in the surge of bitter loneliness, in the pain of death's betrayal
and in the smoking fires of nations at war.

Shield and Friend and Comforter,
encompass us with your presence:
go before us, be beside us
move within us and around us.

Be present, Trinity of Peace
until our journey is ended
and we see you face to face.

Kate McIlhagga

Prayer in memory of two children killed in a road tragedy.

Cradle, O Lord in your arms everlasting,
those who now suffer sore anguish and pain:
warmed may they be by true human affection;
by love surrounded, in your care remain.

Cradle, O Lord, in your arms everlasting,
all who seek here for your comfort today:
make of our lives prayers of joyful self-giving,
offered to Christ who is light for the way.

Christopher Bradnock

More Prayers

May Christ, whose compassion welled over into tears
at the death of friends, enter our lives as we mourn those whom we love.
From the heart which took Him to the cross, may He give us courage, faith
and peace. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, into your hands we commend those whom we love. In our
grief and shock contain and comfort us, give us hope in our confusion and
grace to let go into new life. May we ourselves become instruments of peace
for the comfort of others in distress and for the making of a better, safer
world. **Amen.**

Father of all, we thank you for your gift of life,
the skills you have given mankind,
and the progress which has enriched us so much.
We confess that we use your gifts for ill as well as for good.
We bring sorrow to others as well as joy.
Have mercy on us and on our world,
that we may live as your fellow-workers,
and spread your peace and love and joy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Sorrowing

We bring to God all that is in our hearts. Our griefs and sorrows are with
us now, and our feelings too deep for words.
To God whom Jesus revealed to us as our loving Father, we offer praise
and thanks, with our tears and questions.
For he is the Helper of the helpless, the Seeker of the lost, the Saviour of
all who reach out to him in faith.

Prayer from the Book of Common Order

O Lord Our God,
Who art in every place
and from whom no space of distance can ever part us;
Take into thy holy keeping
those from whom we are separated,
and grant that both they and we,
by drawing nearer to thee,
may be drawn nearer to one another,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Closing Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Help us with the grace of courage when we sit lamenting amid the ruins of
our happiness or our integrity; touch us with fire from the altar, that we
may be up and doing to rebuild our city: in the name and in the method of
Him in whose words of prayer we now conclude -
Our Father, who art in Heaven
.....

Poems

The Absent

They are not here. And we, we are the Others
Who walk by ourselves unquestioned in the sun
Which shines for us and only for us.
For They are not here.
And are made known to us in this great absence
That lies upon us and is between us
Since They are not here.
Now, in this kingdom of summer idleness
Where slowly we the sun-tranced multitudes dream and wander
In deep oblivion of brightness
And breathe ourselves out, out into the air
It is absence that receives us:
We do not touch, our souls go out in the absence
That lies between us and is about us.
For we are the Others,
And so we sorrow for These that are not with us,
Not knowing we sorrow or that this is our sorrow,
Since it is long past thought or memory or device of mourning,
Sorrow for loss of that which we never possessed,
The unknown, the nameless,
The ever-present that in their absence are with us
(With us the inheritors, the usurpers claiming
The sun and the kingdom of the sun) that sorrow
And loneliness might bring a blessing upon us.

Edwin Muir

With kind permission of Faber & Faber Ltd.

For thou shalt sleep and never wake again,
and quitting life, shall quit all living pain;
but we, thy friends, shall all those sorrows find
which in forgetful death thou leav'st behind.

Lucretius (trans. Dryden)

For Those Who Die Young

Doomed to know not Winter, only Spring -
A being Trod the flowery April Blighty for a while;
Took his fill of music, joy of thought and seeing,
Came and stayed and went, nor ever ceased to smile.

Came and stayed and went, and now, when all is finished,
You alone have crossed the melancholy stream.
Yours the pang, but his, the undiminished
Undecaying gladness, undeparted dream.

R.L. Stevenson

From Adonais

He has outsoared the shadow of our night,
Envy and calumny and hate and pain,
And that unrest which men miscall delight,
Can touch him not and torture not again;
From the contagion of the world's slow stain
He is secure, and now can never mourn
A heart grown cold, a head grown gray in vain;

He is made one with Nature; there is heard
His voice in all her music, from the moan
Of thunder; to the song of night's sweet bird;
In darkness and in light, from herb and stone
Spreading itself where'er that Power may move
Which has withdrawn his being to its own;
Which wields the world with never-wearied love,
Sustains it from beneath, and kindles it above.

He is a portion of the loveliness
Which once he made more lovely...

P.B. Shelley

Fidele

Fear no more the heat o'the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages.
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

Fear no more the frown o' the great,
Thou art passed the tyrant's stroke;
Care no more to clothe and eat,
To thee the reed is as the oak:
The sceptre, learning, physic, must
All follow this, and come to dust.

Fear no more the lightning-flash,
Nor the all-dreaded thunder-stone;
Fear not slander, censure rash;
Thou hast finished joy and moan:
All lovers young, all lovers must
Consign to thee, and come to dust.

William Shakespeare

A Haiku, a short poem with a deep meaning

How can the End
Be the Beginning again
When all seems Lost?

Have you thought about it? Because if you haven't, don't read on.

It means that when something dreadful happens, like, someone dies, it seems the end, and yet it is the beginning of coping without.

Sophie Large

On Another's Sorrow

Can I see another's woe,
And not be in sorrow too?
Can I see another's grief
And not seek for kind relief?

Can I see a falling tear,
And not feel my sorrow's share?
Can a father see his child
Weep, nor be with sorrow fill'd?

Can a mother sit and hear
An infant groan, an infant fear?
No, no! Never can it be!
Never, never can it be!

And can he who smiles on all
Hear the wren with sorrows small,
Hear the small bird's grief and care,
Hear the woes that infants bear,

And not sit beside the nest,
Pouring pity in their breast;
And not sit the cradle near,
Weeping tear on infant's tear;

And not sit both night and day
Wiping all our tears away?
O! no never can it be!
Never, never can it be!

He doth give his joy to all;
He becomes an infant small;
He becomes a man of woe;
He doth feel the sorrow too.

Think not thou can'st sigh a sigh,
And thy Maker is not by.
Think not thou can'st weep a tear,
And thy Maker is not near.

O! He gives to us His joy
That our grief he may destroy;
Till our grief is fled and gone,
He doth sit by us and moan.

William Blake

Eric

Once a child who kept on growing
His song and laughter always flowing,
The constant doorbell, his telephone tone,
In this life he was never alone.
Try to remember his jokes, his schemes,
How he was always fulfilling his dreams.
The clothes, his trainers, the cars, his gold,
He had it all except getting old.
Please don't let his death be in vain,
As that would add to our family's pain.

Raine Family

Eric, aged 20, son of Peter and Rosemary Raine, brother to Sarah and Vickie and uncle to Harley was killed at 11.20 pm on 4 June 2001 as a rear seat passenger.

A Promise

'I go to prepare a place for you' John 14:2

Perhaps if we could see
The beauty of the land
To which our loved are called
From you and me
We'd understand.

Perhaps if we could hear
The welcome they receive
From old familiar voices –
All so dear,
We would not grieve.

Perhaps if we could know
The reason why they went
We'd smile – and wipe away
The tears that flow
And wait content.

*Tina Mouland-Collins, in memory of her partner Tim,
for a spark of strength for all of us bereaved*

I Love you Tim

You are so clever!
Whatever the weather
You are here with me.
Come rain or shine
Your love is mine.
With you my heart will always be.

*Tina Mouland-Collins, written for her partner, Tim,
'after receiving amazing evidential proof through
a Spiritualist Medium, that he is with her'*

'The Heart could never Speak'

The heart could never speak
But that the Word was spoken
We hear the heart break
Here with hearts unbroken.
Time teach us the art
That breaks and heals the heart.

Heart you would be dumb
But that your word was said
In time, and the echoes come
Thronging from the dead.
Time teach us the art that resurrects the heart.

Tongue, you can only say
Syllables, joy and pain,
Till time, having its way,
Makes the word live again.
Time merciful lord,
Grant us to learn your word.

Edwin Muir

Sorrow

Sorrow is true for everyone — a word
That illiterate men may read
By divining in the heart
God's human name and natural shroud.

Sorrow is deep and vast — we travel on
As far as pain can penetrate to the end
Of power and possibility; to find
The contours of the world, with heaven aligned
Upon infinity; the shape of man!

Kathleen Raine

Voices

Voices ideal and beloved
Of those who have died, or of those
Who are lost for us like the dead.

Sometimes in dreams they speak to us;
Sometimes within thinking the brain hears them.
And with the sound of them for a moment return
Sounds from the first poetry of our life —
Like music, at night, in the distance that dies away.

Constantine Cavafy, translated by John Mavrocordato

Years On

At the trailing edge of autumn
gray rain falling hard
to soften the native grasses
in the old graveyard

My son is tucked well under there
among the clay and stones,
though what his name betokens
is nothing more than bones

And how long would it take for
the water to soak down
and cover every bone with
its fine transparent gown?

I do not know, merely recall
moments of pleasure and mirth
As he trod lightly on you,
rest lightly on him, earth.

Chris Wallace-Crabbe

Requiescat

Tread lightly, she is near
Under the snow.
Speak gently, she can hear
The daisies grow

All her bright golden hair
Tarnished with rust
She that was young and fair
Fallen to dust.

Coffin-board, heavy stone
Lie on her breast,
I vex my heart alone
She is at rest.

Peace, peace, she cannot hear
Lyre or sonnet,
All my life's buried here
Heap earth upon it.

Oscar Wilde

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 all my love; you can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love we each have shown,
But now it's time I travelled on alone.

So grieve a while 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 within your heart you'll hear
All my love around you, soft and clear

And then when you must come this way alone
I'll greet you with a smile, and say
'Welcome Home'. *Sandra Green for her son Paul*

Extract from 'Crash'

Now we are left to rise above the sheer waste,
the anger and bitterness that can only destroy.
And in recognition for all that you are,
In love, gratitude and thanks, my son,
reflecting on your most positive powers of gentle righteousness.
Live on to challenge those who are unable to recognise
the dangerous weapon which empowers, if used in ignorance and
carelessness. *Ann John, for her son Dominic*

Angels

Should you hear them singing among stars
or whispering secrets of a wiser world,
do not imagine ardent, fledgeling children;
they are intelligences, old as sunrise,
that never learned right from left, before from after,
knowing but one direction, into God,
but one duration, now.

Their melody strides not from bar to bar,
but, like a painting hangs there entire,
one chord of limitless communication.
You have heard it in the rhythms of the hills,
the spiralling turn of the dance, the fall of words,
the touch of fingers at the rare right moment,
and these were holy, holy.

John V Taylor

Take Me, Oh Lord

Take me, O Lord, for the snows are calling o'er,
Take me to the happy land of love and light.

Take me, Dear Lord, for the wind is getting stronger,
Take me to the Paradise unknown to our eyes.

Take me, Dear Lord, for the sun is swiftly setting
Take me to the place eternal, love and light.

Take me, Dear Lord, for my eyes are getting heavy
Take me to my resting place, to heaven.

Sophie Large

*Sophie's poems are taken from 'Sophie's Log', produced by her parents
after her tragic road death at age 19, from which all proceeds go to
Sophie's Silver Lining Fund.*

God's Lent Child

I'll lend you for a little while
A child of mine God said,
For you to love the while he lives
And mourn for when he's dead.
It may be one or seven years,
Or forty-two or three,
But will you 'til I call him back,
Take care of him for me?

He'll bring his charms to gladden you
And, should his stay be brief,
You'll always have his memories
As a solace for your grief.
I cannot promise he will stay
Since all from earth return,
But there are lessons taught below
I want this child to learn.
I've looked this whole world over
In my search for teachers true,
And from the folks that crowd life's lane
I have chosen you.

Now will you give him all your love
Nor think the labour vain,
Nor hate me when I come to take
This Lent Child back again?
I fancied that I heard them say:
Dear God, Thy will be done,
For all the joys Thy child will bring
The risk of grief we'll run.
We'll shelter him with tenderness
We'll love him while we may.
And for the happiness we've known
For ever grateful stay.
But should the angels call for him
Much sooner than we planned,

We'll brave the bitter grief that comes,
And try to understand.

Christopher J Wren

Do Not Stand At My Grave and Weep

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 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 flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.

*Steven Cummins written to his parents
before death on active service*

For Sleep or Death

Cure me with quietness,
Bless me with peace;
Comfort my heaviness,
Stay me with ease.
Stillness in solitude
Send down like dew;
Mine armour of fortitude
Piece and make new;
That when I rise again
I may shine bright
As the sky after rain,
Day after night.

Ruth Pitter

Thoughts

Grandfather, look at our brokenness, we know that in all creation only the human family has strayed from the sacred way. We know we are the ones who are divided. And we are the ones who must come back together to walk in the sacred way.

Grandfather, sacred one, teach us love, compassion and honour that we may heal the earth and heal each other.

American Indian Prayer

Death is the touchstone of our attitude to life. If we are afraid of death we will never be prepared to take ultimate risks; we will spend our life in a cowardly, careful and timid manner. It is only as we can face death, make sense of it, determine its place and our place in regard to it that we will be able to live in a fearless way and to the fullness of our ability.

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

I would know my shadow and my light,
So shall I at last be whole.
Then courage, brother, dare the grave passage.
Here is no final grieving, but an abiding hope.
The moving waters renew the earth.
It is spring.

Michael Tippett, A Child of our Time

Lord Christ, give me some of your Spirit to comfort the places in my heart where I hurt ... Then give me some more of your Spirit, so that I can comfort other people.

Terry Waite, former hostage in Iran

Your pain is the breaking of the shell
that encloses your understanding.

Kahlil Gibran

I don't understand, but I bear no ill will to anybody, nor does my wife. I feel we are getting grace which is helping - very much so! We are supported by the prayers of our friends and our friends themselves. I can't understand why I was not taken rather than Marie ... part of the larger plan. I don't understand that, but I prayed for them (the bombers) last night. I hope I will have the grace to continue to do so.

*Gordon Wilson, whose daughter died in his arms
in the rubble after the Enniskillen bombing.*

I am a part and parcel of the whole, and I cannot find God apart from the rest of humanity.

Mahatma Gandhi

If you want to carry a fire right into the darkest nights of humanity, will you let an inner life grow, deep within you? A life with neither beginning nor end. A land on fire. Then you would become a leaven of trust and peace even where the human community is torn apart, in its deserts. Across the earth, so many others, believers and non-believers, are already striving to be a leaven of trust between peoples. Seeking healing for the divisions between South and North, between East and West, they stand out as signs of what we hardly dared hope for.

Brother Roger, The Taizé Experience

The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all living beings, which are all part of one another and all involved in one another.

Thomas Merton

I believe that God is willing to provide us in any emergency with all the powers of resilience that will be necessary for us. But he does not give in advance, lest we should rely upon ourselves and not on him alone.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison

Forgiveness does not mean ignoring what has been done or putting a false label on an evil act. It means, rather, that the evil act no longer remains as a barrier to the relationship. Forgiveness is a catalyst, creating the atmosphere necessary for a fresh start and a new beginning. It is the lifting of a burden or the cancelling of a debt.

Martin Luther King

Walking on water looks difficult but I have seen it done.
Those with enough grief to sink them have kept on -
drawn by an invisible source of strength.....

Cecily Taylor

My singing heart my days' doxology, my gold,
I bring for **celebration**.
My stillness, my glimpses of serenity, my frankincense,
I bring for **meditation**.
My brokenness, my tears of rage and sorrow, my myrrh,
I bring for **sacrifice**.

Kate Compston

Oh may the light of love, which my child kindled in my heart, continue to burn brightly. So that as I gain strength of soul, I may bring cheer to all my dear ones.

From the Hebrew

In the darkest hour through which a human soul can pass, whatever else is doubtful, this at least is certain. If there be no God and no future state, yet even then, it is better to be generous than selfish, better to be chaste than licentious, better to be true than false, better to be brave than a coward.

Frederick William Robertson

Do not fear for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One, your Saviour.
Do not fear, for I am with you.

Do not dwell on the former things,
Or consider the things of old:
I am about to do a new thing!
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert.
For I give water in the dry ground,
Streams in the wilderness,
To refresh the people I have called,
The people whom I formed
So that they might rejoice in me.

Isaiah 43

Love takes to itself the life of the loved-one.
The greater the love, the greater the suffering of the soul.
The fuller the love, the fuller the knowledge of God.
The more ardent the love, the more fervent the prayer.
The more perfect the love, the more perfect the life.

Silouan the Monk

I have trod the upward and the downward slope;
I have endured and done in days before;
I have longed for and bid farewell to hope;
And I have lived and loved, and closed the door.

R. L. Stevenson

For those left sorrowing

You can shed tears that they are gone
or you can smile because they have lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that they'll come back
or you can open your eyes and see all they have left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see them
or you can be full of the love you share.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn back
or you can do what they'd want: smile, open your eyes, love, and go on.

Anon.

Sanskrit Proverb

Look to this day
For it is life, the very life of life.
In its brief course lies all
The realities and verities of existence,
The bliss of growth,
The splendour of action,

For yesterday is but a dream
And tomorrow is only a vision.
But today, well lived,
Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day.

Anon

Death

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. Put no difference in your tone, wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Pray, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was, let it be spoken without effect, without the trace of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was; there is unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just round the corner. All is well.

Henry Scott Holland 1847–1918, Canon of St Paul's Cathedral

To recognise evil and not to oppose it is to surrender your humanity.
To recognise evil and to oppose it with the weapons of the evil doer is to enter into your humanity.
To recognise evil and to oppose it with the weapons of God is to enter into your divinity.

Mahatma Gandhi

Come Holy Spirit, come wind of God
whisper your tender words of healing in the ears of the sick,
breathe your spirit of comfort around those who mourn
stir hearts hardened by despair to new life and hope.

From 'Encompassing Presence' Prayer Handbook

'Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted'

RoadPeace campaign for Justice

Victims' Rights

Road Crash Victims to have the right to full information, consultation and respect.

Criminal Justice

Causing death and injury on our roads to be treated as a serious offence.

Road Crash Investigations

Obligatory national standards to be set up for investigations.

Civil Justice

Civil proceedings to be reformed so victims can achieve fair and speedy compensation.

Medical Care

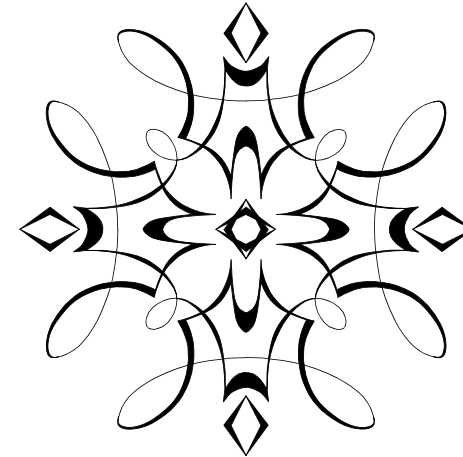
Victims to receive timely, comprehensive care for the physical and psychological consequences of road crashes, by those trained in this area and possessing the full facts.

Government Strategy

Government to acknowledge road death and injury as the major public health and human rights issue that it is and employ a unified strategy to address it.

The **RoadPeace Parliamentary Group for Justice for Road Traffic Victims** is formally registered 'To raise Parliament's awareness of road death and injury as a major public health and human rights issue, with the aim of reducing the scale and eliminating the major injustices suffered by bereaved and injured road traffic victims'

Please ask RoadPeace for further information and inform all interested



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