

Dear Caoimbhe,

It's the morning of your wedding and your Mum couldn't be any prouder.
We have been through many journeys together as a loving mother and daughter.
You have stood firmly by my side during times when life has put us to the test.
And remained grounded, loyal and true and dutifully carried out every request.

I can't believe you're getting married as to me you're still my little girl.
I was twenty one when you were born and you enveloped my whole world.

Birt and I were delighted with you and you started your life with us in Clonoe.
Then we moved to Castlecaulfield when you were seven and had a brand new school and home.

Then our family expanded and we were joined by Conor and your siblings.
We produced lots of happy memories in daily life and holidays and Christmas.

You were the perfect teenager and never created any problems for me.
Apart from the broken limbs and bones and the endless trips to A&E!

We were on first name terms with all the staff and the injuries were as the result of football!
You were easygoing and you haven't changed and you continue to surprise us all!

Other brides would be in a panic now but 'our Caoimbhe' takes it all in her stride.
It'll be grand and fine and don't be worrying! It'll be alright on the night!

The one thing that might stress you out is me not being on the end of the phone.
We talk at least ten times a day with Snapchat, Whatsapp and Facebook going!

Saturdays were always spent with grandparents and I never knew which house you would be in.
The term 'Rent - A - Child' suited you well. Is she with Granny Girvan or Granny Quinn?

When you were staying in Galbally there was much fun to be had with your cousins.
There were games to be played and land to explore and pretend fighting and discussions.

It was there that you also saw Granda Seamus and your precious Godmother and Auntie Sharon.
And played with your bridesmaid -to- be Aine and the boys Cathair and Tiarnan.

You and Tiarnan were very close and loved to spend time together.
You kicked football and played hide and seek tearing around the garden.

Then there was the incident with the clay Laurel and Hardy that stood pride of place at the door.
A ball was kicked and one lost their head and Granny lost hers too in the furore!

It was Tiarnan's foot that kicked the ball but he blamed you and you never forgave him for that.
It was a memory that became ingrained in your childhood that your older selves used to laugh at.

We never thought we would've been without him and question why he had to leave us that way.
But it's fitting that he shares a heavenly birthday with you on this most special day.

He will be there beside you as you make your entrance into the chapel so grand.
You will feel his presence as you say 'I do', and he'll be holding your other hand.

He will be there as Conor walks you up the aisle where you'll meet your Daddy at the crossroads.
You are blessed to have amazing men who worship you and put their all into their paternal roles.

The third man will wait at the altar for his beautiful bride-to-be to arrive.
Little did you know that a night out in Cookstown would bring you to this point!

Where you'd become parents to Eireann and Paidi, your gorgeous flower girl and pageboy.
And set up a home together, a commitment to make, over a lifetime to enjoy.

Curtis is a good man, attentive father and you couldn't have been matched better.
He made your day when you got engaged in 2020 on the 19th day of September.

And now you stand before me, dressed in splendour, ready to take the next step in life.
You will always be a wonderful mother and daughter but now you will also be a wife.

And you will remain a big sister to all the babies that arrived after you were born.
You picked me up and held me close after our little Hope had gone.

You and the boys gave me a reason to smile and a purpose for which to live.
CJ and Cormac adore you and there is nothing to them you wouldn't give.

You are also an amazing granddaughter and have been there when it matters most.
We will remember those who are absent, as in the Greenvale, your future we toast.

You and Granny Pauline were two mischief makers and you used to get up to all sorts.
From setting up the Community Centre for events and lending Granny McMenamain your support.

You visited her in 'the home' and made sure your trips were entertaining and special.
She always enjoyed the company and the wee tittle of watered down vodka!

We lost Granny in November last year and life will never be the same for us.
She was so happy to see you settled and joyful with your little family so flawless.

She will stand with Tiarnan and watch over you with Granda Quinn also at her side.
He left this earthly plain in January to be your angel and your guide.

They will be holding Hope in their arms as up the aisle you effortlessly glide.
You will have your own heavenly choir of angels and sweet music they will provide.

I will be there looking on with delight as you come to St John's to make your vows.
You are my best friend and my sidekick who I could never be without.

I love you dearly and am so proud of you and everything you have achieved.
You will never know my darling 'toots' what an impact you have on me.

I want you to enjoy your special day with family and friends from both near and far.
They've come from Galbally, Cookstown, Philly and Liverpool to watch you become Mrs Darragh.

Just know that you will be the most stunning bride, loved by your nearest and dearest.
Happy wedding day Caoimbhe and Happy birthday Billy - we know you're with us in spirit.

All my love . . .

Mummy