

Lamb



Bellamy family grave
Section T, grave 290A

Often found on the grave monuments of children, the lamb symbolizes Christ in his sacrificial role and personifies innocence, gentleness and humility ("Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" [John 1:29]). The example above is on the grave of Desley Bellamy, who died in 1943, aged just two years and seven months.

The lamb has appeared regularly in Christian art throughout history, and its use in religious art actually pre-dates Christianity, having first been used by the Egyptians.

Lily



Frenney family grave
Section 2B, graves 73, 80 & 87

The lily represents purity, innocence, and resurrection. The flower has long featured in symbolic tales concerning the sacrament of motherhood, and so was often used on the graves of women.

In Roman mythology, Juno, the queen of the gods, spilled excess milk to the earth while breast-feeding her son. This milk created lilies.

The angel Gabriel has been depicted extending a branch of white lilies to the Virgin Mary, announcing that she is to be the mother of Christ.

Saints are sometimes pictured bringing vases of lilies to Mary and the infant Jesus. It is also told that when the Virgin Mary's tomb was visited three days after her burial, it was found empty except for white lilies. Early writers and artists made the lily the emblem of the Annunciation and of the Resurrection of the Virgin.

Tradition also has it that lilies were found growing in Gethsemane after Christ's agony, having sprung up where drops of His sweat fell to the ground. Many churches today commemorate the resurrection at Easter time by surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies