

RESOURCES FOR TIMES OF GRIEVING & DEATH



RC DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE

VICARIATE FOR FAITH & MISSION

PRAYERS FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS RECENTLY DIED



To begin you may wish to place a photograph of your loved one and a crucifix in an appropriate place. You may also wish to light a candle.

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Into your hands, Lord, we commend N., in faith that you will raise him/her up, in hope that we shall be together again in you, in love that does not die.



Reading

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

PRAYERS

Holy Lord, almighty and eternal God,
hear our prayers for your servant N.,
whom you have summoned out of this
world.

Forgive his/her sins and failings
and grant him/her a place of
refreshment, light, and peace.

Let him/her pass unharmed through
the gates of death
to dwell with the blessed in light,
as you promised to Abraham and his
children for ever.

Accept N. into your safe keeping
and on the great day of judgement
raise him/her up with all the saints
to inherit your eternal kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Order of Christian Funerals

Father of mercies and God of all
consolation,
you pursue us with untiring love
and dispel the shadow of death
with the bright dawn of life.

Comfort our family in our loss and
sorrow,

be our refuge and our strength, O Lord,
and lift us from the depths of grief
into the peace and light of your
presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying has destroyed death,
and by rising, restored our life.

Enable us therefore to press on toward
him,

so that, after our earthly course is run,
he may reunite us with those we love,
when every tear will be wiped away.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Order of Christian Funerals

N., is gone and my heart breaks.

Deep within me I feel the emptiness of sorrow.

The sharing of my grief is made harder at this time;

I cannot touch the one I have lost

I cannot hug the ones I love

I cannot weep in company with those who shared our love.

But somehow I know that you never left N.

Though some might think he/she died alone

I believe that you were there.

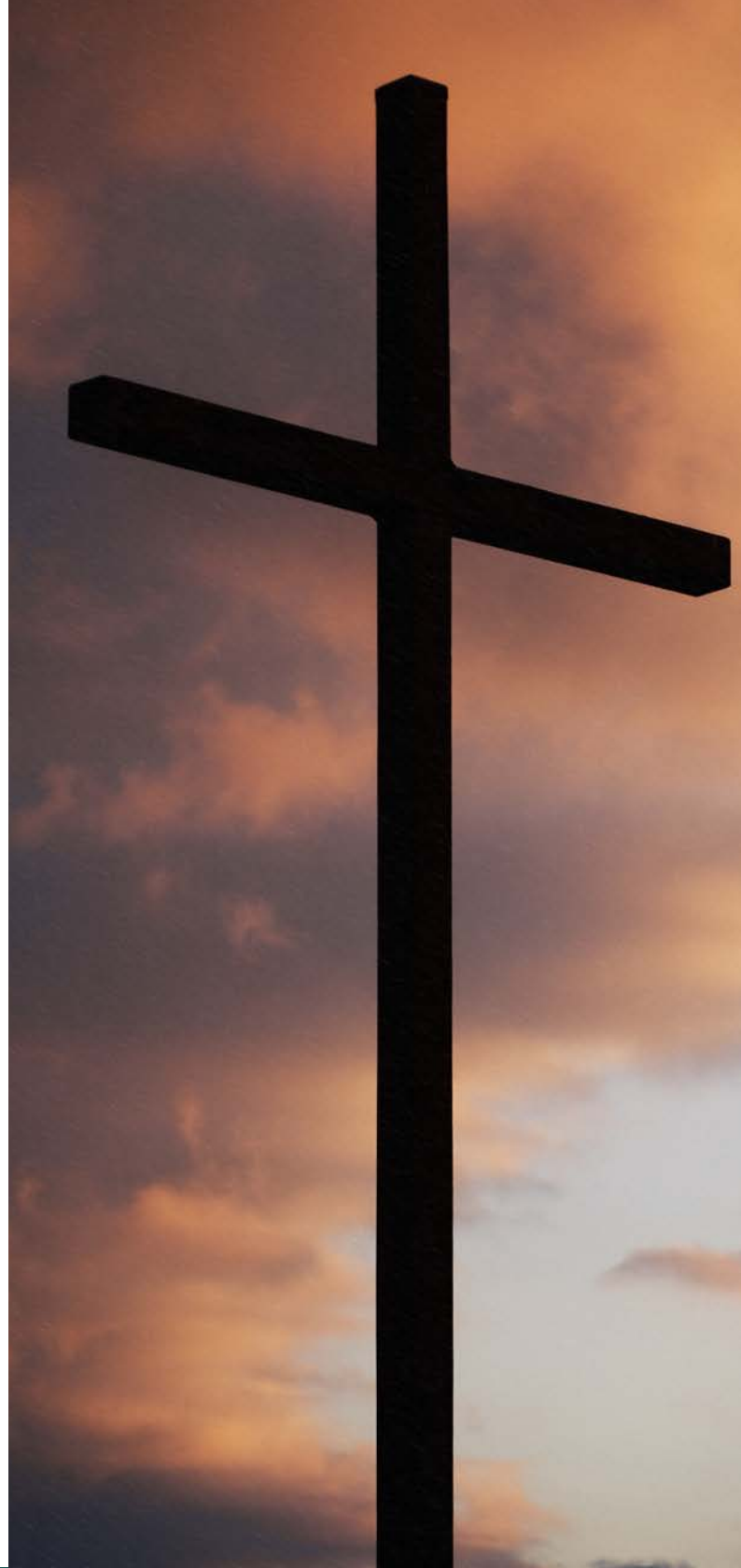
Give peace to my heart and eternal life to N.

Amen

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.
Amen.

Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with thee,
blessed art thou among 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.

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.



Concluding Prayer

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on him/her.
May he/she rest in peace. Amen.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the memory of
God, rest in peace.

Give strength for our weakness. Give calm for our turmoil. Give courage for our
worry. Give peace for our sorrow. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR LOVED ONES WE CANNOT VISIT IN HOSPITAL

To begin you may wish to place a photograph of your loved one and a crucifix in an appropriate place. You may also wish to light a candle.

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord be with us now in our need.

Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said, 'Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest.' Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart. And you will find rest for your souls.

The Gospel of the Lord.

For loved one who is sick

As a gesture you may wish to make the Sign of the Cross on the photograph as you say the following:

Give strength to your servant who is sick and needs your care. Show mercy, Lord, and send your powerful help.

A prayer for a loved one who is in isolation in hospital.

Lord Jesus, as you suffered on the Cross, your Mother and friends could only stand at a distance unable to help you. In our helplessness we ask for strength to help us through this time. Look on the one we love who is sick, out of our reach never out of our care, beyond our embrace, never beyond your power. We pray you stay close at N.'s bedside and though we cannot draw near touch him/her with your mercy And hold him/her safe in your arms. Amen.

FOR STRENGTH

A prayer for ourselves

Lord Jesus,
You faced suffering and hardship in fear and trembling. Yet in your isolation You entrusted yourself to the will of your Father. Stand beside us now to help us through this hour.

Keep us mindful that we are never alone for you share our burdens and you promise your peace. You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

A prayer for carers and hospital staff

Bless the hands of those who nurse him/her Let their care be rewarded. May it convey the deep love of our hearts Inspire the skill of the doctors who treat him/her. Look with kindness on all who serve the sick and work for their comfort Keep them safe for their loved ones May they know our gratitude that they are with N. when we cannot be there. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Amen.

Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with thee,
blessed art thou among 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.

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
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As it was in the beginning is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Give strength for our weakness. Give calm for our turmoil.
Give courage for our worry. Give mercy for our weakness.

Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR A LOVED ONE WHOSE FUNERAL I CANNOT ATTEND

To begin you may wish to place a photograph of your loved one and a crucifix in an appropriate place. You may also wish to light a candle.

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, At this time I cannot be at the funeral of N., whom I have loved dearly. Help me through this moment that I may say goodbye to one who has meant so much.

Fill my heart with peace and give everlasting life to him/her.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER

Father, In sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ I pray for N. In Christ, he will be changed not ended and the earthly body which returns to the dust of the earth, will, at your bidding, be raised and transformed to be like him who died and rose again for our salvation. May there be no more suffering or pain no weakness or weariness.

On the day of judgement show N. mercy for you are the God of compassion and love. Forgive his/her sins and failings and grant him/her peace and rest through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Commendation

Trusting in God, I say goodbye to N. Although his/her going leaves sorrow in my heart, I know, through faith, that we shall see each other again. The love and friendship that we have shared does not come to an end and we shall, in God's good time, be reunited. May the hope of everlasting life be fulfilled in N., and sustain me in the days ahead.

If you have a photograph of the person who has died make the Sign of the Cross on it as you say the following Prayer of Farewell.

N., may the angels lead you into paradise. May the martyrs come to welcome you where Lazarus is poor no longer; there may you have eternal rest.

Say this prayer of Commendation Into your hands, Lord, I commend N., in faith that you will raise him/her up, in hope that you we shall be together again in you, In love that does not die. I give thanks for having known and loved him/her and I pray that N.'s life will continue to inspire me to love and to be of help to others. Welcome into paradise your servant where he/she may enjoy that place prepared for him/her for ever and ever. Amen.

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.
Amen.

[Click here for the Catholic Bishops's conference of England and Wales](#)

[Liturgy](#)

Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with thee,
blessed art thou among 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.

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O
Lord, And let perpetual shine upon
him/her. May he/she rest in peace.
Amen.

May his/her soul and the souls of all
the faithful departed, through the
mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Give strength for our weakness.
Give calm for our turmoil.
Give courage for our worry.
Give peace for our sorrow.
Amen.

In the name
of the Father and of the Son and of
the Holy Spirit. Amen.



THE ART OF DYING

www.artofdyingwell.org/

Taken from the art of dying well website:

Originally commissioned by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and now belongs to St Mary's University. After centuries of ministering to the dying, the Catholic Church has a fund of experience to share in what was traditionally called the art of dying well, or in Latin, Ars Moriendi. The Art of Dying Well website is brought to you by St Mary's University. The Art of Dying Well offers practical and spiritual support to those faced with the prospect of death and dying. It is a site for everyone.

Catholics believe in letting go and trusting in God in the final journey towards death and eternal life. But even if you are not religious, accepting death can make it easier to prepare yourself and others when the time comes. It should open the way to important conversations with your loved ones, your carers and your doctors. There is a shared interest in discussing how we can make death more peaceful and meaningful.



Creating and holding space for our
brokenness

An article by Fr Ronald Rolheiser

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