



CHRISTIAN PRAYERS FOR THE SICK & THE DYING



For use by priest, deacon, spiritual care team, or family members.

Introduction

In this moment of sorrow

the Lord is in our midst and comforts us with his word:
Blessed are the sorrowful; they shall be consoled.

Prayer of Commendation for Those Near Death

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

I commend you, my dear brother / sister,
to Almighty God, and entrust you to your creator.

May you return to him who formed you
from the dust of the earth.

May holy Mary, the angels, and all the saints come
to meet you as you go forth from this life.

May Christ who was crucified for you
bring you freedom and peace.

May Christ who died for you
admit you into his garden of paradise.

May Christ, the true Shepherd,
acknowledge you as one of his flock.

May he forgive all your sins, and set you
among those he has chosen. Amen



Prayers for the Dead

Saints of God come to his/her aid!

Hasten to meet him/her angels of the Lord.

With God there is mercy and fullness of redemption;
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father . . .

23rd Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul; he leads 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 you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs 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.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, our Redeemer,
you willingly gave yourself up to death
so that all people might be saved and pass from death
to new life.

Listen to our prayers;
look with love on your people who mourn and pray for
their brother/sister N.

Lord Jesus, holy and compassionate: forgive N his/her sins.
By dying you unlocked the gates of life for those who
believe in you;

do not let our brother/sister be parted from you,
but by your glorious power give him/her light,
joy, and peace in heaven where you live and reign
forever and ever. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace. Amen.

May almighty God bless us with his peace and strength,
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Other Prayers that May Be Used

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.

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy.
Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to your protection,
implored your help, or sought your intercession
was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence,
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in your mercy, hear and answer me.

Prayer for the Bereaved

Dearest Jesus, who wept at the death of your friend
and taught that they who mourn shall be comforted,
grant us the comfort of your presence in our loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to direct us
lest we make hasty or foolish decisions.
Send your Spirit to give us courage
lest through fear we recoil from living.
Send your Spirit to bring us your peace
lest bitterness, false guilt, or regret take root in our hearts.
Amen.

*Based on content from www.nhsfife.org, the website of
the Fife, Scotland, area of the National Health Service in the
United Kingdom.

Saint Margaret of Scotland (c. 1045–1093) is the beloved patroness
of this area and of all of Scotland.



GRID-DOWN CATHOLIC FAITH RESOURCES



Introduction

The CORAC National Prayer Teams Committee has developed a short list of essential printed resources and physical objects to have on hand in case the grid goes down for a time. Every family and local Catholic community will, of course, have its own meaningful essentials to augment this list.



Printed Resources

Bible

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Liturgy of the Hours (also known as *The Divine Office*, a four-volume set for the liturgical seasons of the year)

Prayer books, old missals, other printed materials, etc.

- Printed copies of favorite devotions
- Printed Examination of Conscience for adults and children
- Missalettes
- Pamphlets on various subjects; for example:
 - ~ How to make a spiritual communion
 - ~ Chaplet of Divine Mercy
 - ~ How to gain indulgences
- Spiritual reading of all kinds:
 - ~ Lives of the saints
 - ~ Devotional books
 - ~ Children's reading material



Sacramentals for Your Home or to Have Near Your Family Altar

Crucifix

Rosaries

Statues and/or pictures of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the family's favorite saints, etc.

Brown Scapular and other scapulars of choice

Medals: Miraculous Medal, Saint Benedict Medal, etc.

Holy water

Blessed salt

Blessed oil

Blessed candles (beeswax)

Surrender Prayer Novena *(continued)*

Day 5: And when I must lead you on a path different from the one you see, I will prepare you; I will carry you in my arms; I will let you find yourself, like children who have fallen asleep in their mother's arms, on the other bank of the river. What troubles you and hurts you immensely are your reason, your thoughts and worry, and your desire at all costs to deal with what afflicts you.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

Day 6: You are sleepless; you want to judge everything, direct everything and see to everything and you surrender to human strength, or worse - to men themselves, trusting in their intervention, - this is what hinders my words and my views. Oh how much I wish from you this surrender, to help you; and how I suffer when I see you so agitated! Satan tries to do exactly this: to agitate you and to remove you from my protection and to throw you into the jaws of human initiative. So, trust only in me, rest in me, surrender to me in everything.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

Day 7: I perform miracles in proportion to your full surrender to me and to your not thinking of yourselves. I sow treasure troves of graces when you are in the deepest poverty. No person of reason, no thinker, has ever perform miracles, not even among the saints. He does divine works whosoever surrenders to God. So don't think about it anymore, because your mind is acute and for you it is very hard to see evil and to trust in me and to not think of yourself. Do this for all your needs, do this all of you and you will see great continual silent miracles. I will take care of things, I promise this to you.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

Day 8: Close your eyes and let yourself be carried away on the flowing current of my grace; close your eyes and do not think of the present, turning your thoughts away from the future just as you would from temptation. Repose in me, believing in my goodness, and I promise you by my love that if you say "You take care of it" I will take care of it all; I will console you, liberate you and guide you.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

Day 9: Pray always in readiness to surrender, and you will receive from it great peace and great rewards, even when I confer on you the grace of immolation, of repentance and of love. Then what does suffering matter? It seems impossible to you? Close your eyes and say with all your soul, "Jesus, you take care of it". Do not be afraid, I will take care of things and you will bless my name by humbling yourself. A thousand prayers cannot equal one single act of surrender, remember this well. There is no novena more effective than this.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything!

Mother, I am yours now and forever. Through you and with you, I always want to belong completely to Jesus.





Prayer for the Sick

Almighty and Eternal God, the everlasting salvation of them that believe, hear us on behalf of Thy sick servant, N.N., for whom we implore the aid of Thy pitying mercy, that, with his/her bodily health restored, s/he may render thanks to Thee in Thy Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Prayer for a Sick Person Near Death

Almighty and Everlasting God, preserver of souls, who dost love, and who for their amendment dost tenderly chastise those whom Thou dost receive, we call upon Thee, O Lord, to bestow Thy healing, that the soul of Thy servant, at the hour of its departure from the body, may by the hands of Thy holy angels be presented without spot unto Thee. Amen.



Prayers for the Dying

O my God, I offer Thee all the holy Masses which will be said this day throughout the whole world for poor sinners who are now in their death agony and who will die this day. May the Precious Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ obtain for them mercy. Amen.

(Pre-1968 indulgence of three hundred days ~ Pope Pius X, December 18, 1907)

O most merciful Jesus, lover of souls, I pray Thee by the agony of Thy most Sacred Heart, and by the sorrows of Thy Immaculate Mother, wash in Thy Blood the sinners of the whole world who are now in their agony, and are to die this day. Amen.

Heart of Jesus, once in agony, have mercy on the dying.

(Pre-1968 indulgence of three hundred days, each time)

TRADITIONAL CATHOLIC PRAYERS FOR THE SICK & THE DYING



Prayer to Saint Joseph for the Dying

Everlasting Father, for the sake of the love which Thou didst bear to Saint Joseph, whom Thou didst choose above all to occupy Thy place on earth, have mercy on us and those who are dying.

Pater Noster . . . Ave Maria . . . Gloria Patri . . .

Everlasting Son of God, for the sake of Thy love toward Saint Joseph, who didst protect Thee so faithfully on earth, have mercy on us and those who are dying.

Pater Noster . . . Ave Maria . . . Gloria Patri . . .

Everlasting Divine Spirit, for the sake of Thy love toward Saint Joseph, who so carefully protected Mary, Thy most holy and beloved Spouse, have mercy on us and on those who are dying.

Pater Noster . . . Ave Maria . . . Gloria Patri . . .

(Pre-1968 indulgence of five hundred days, once a day)



The Proficiscere Prayer (Go Forth, Christian Soul)

*While the soul is in agony of its departure, the priest
(or any person) recites the following prayer:*

Go Forth, O Christian soul, from this world, in the name of God the Father Almighty, who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, who suffered for you; in the name of the Holy Ghost, who was poured forth upon you; in the name of the angels and archangels; in the name of the thrones and dominations; in the name of the principalities and powers; in the name of the cherubim and seraphim; in the name of the patriarchs and prophets; in the name of the holy apostles and evangelists; in the name of the holy martyrs and confessors; in the name of the holy monks and hermits; in the name of the holy virgins and of all the saints of God: May your place be this day in peace, and your abode in holy Zion. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Litany for the Dying

(Private use only)

It is suggested that the dying be given a crucifix to hold or that a crucifix be placed where it is easily seen.

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for him/her.*

All ye holy angels and archangels, *pray for him/her.*

Holy Abel, *etc.*

All ye choirs of the just,

Holy Abraham,

Saint John the Baptist,

Saint Joseph,

All ye patriarchs and prophets,

Saint Peter,

Saint Paul,

Saint Andrew,

Saint John,

All ye holy apostles and evangelists,

All ye holy disciples of our Lord,

All ye holy innocents,

Saint Stephen,

Saint Lawrence,

All ye holy martyrs,

Saint Sylvester,

Saint Gregory,

Saint Augustine,

All ye holy bishops and confessors,

Saint Benedict,

Saint Francis,

Saint Camillus,

Saint John of God,

All ye holy monks and hermits,

Saint Mary Magdalen,

Saint Lucy,

All ye holy virgins and widows,

All ye holy saints of God, *make intercession for him/her.*

Be merciful, *spare him/her, O Lord!*

Be merciful, *deliver him/her, O Lord!*

Be merciful, *etc.*

From Thy anger,

From the danger of death,

From an ill end,

From the pains of hell,

From all evil,

From the power of the devil,

Through Thy nativity,

Through Thy cross and passion,

Through Thy death and burial,

Through Thy glorious resurrection,

Through Thy admirable ascension,

Through the grace of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter,

In the day of judgment,

We sinners, *we beseech Thee, hear us.*

That Thou spare him/her, *we beseech Thee, hear us.*

Lord, *have mercy on us.*

Christ, *have mercy on us.*

Lord, *have mercy on us.*

Amen.



USCCB* PRAYERS AFTER DEATH



Prayer for the Dead

In your hands, O Lord,
we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters.
In this life you embraced them with your tender love;
deliver them now from every evil
and bid them eternal rest.

The old order has passed away:
welcome them into paradise,
where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain,
but fullness of peace and joy
with your Son and the Holy Spirit
forever and ever. Amen

Prayers Immediately after Death

May be recited immediately after death and may be repeated in the hours that follow.

Saints of God, come to his/her aid!
Come to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!
Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
May angels lead you to Abraham's side.
Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Give him/her eternal rest, O Lord,
and may your light shine on him/her forever.
Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Let us pray.
All-powerful and merciful God,
we commend to you N., your servant.
In your mercy and love,
blot out the sins he/she has committed
through human weakness.
In this world he/she has died:
let him/her live with you forever.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Prayers for Mourners

- Lord God,
you are attentive to the voice of our pleading.
Let us find in your Son
comfort in our sadness,
certainty in our doubt,
and courage to live through this hour.
Make our faith strong
through Christ our Lord. Amen.
- Lord,
N. is gone now from this earthly dwelling,
and has left behind those who mourn his/her absence.
Grant that we may hold his/her memory dear,
never bitter for what we have lost
nor in regret for the past,
but always in hope of the eternal kingdom
where you will bring us together again.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
- May the love of God and the peace of the
Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us
and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

For those who mourn the death of a child:

- O Lord, whose ways are beyond understanding,
listen to the prayers of your faithful people:
that those weighed down by grief
at the loss of this little child
may find reassurance in your infinite goodness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

USCCB* PRAYERS FOR THE DYING



"The Christian meaning of death is revealed in the light of the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ in whom resides our only hope. The Christian who dies in Christ Jesus is 'away from the body and at home with the Lord' (2 Corinthians 5:8)."

~ *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1681*

The following prayers may be recited with the dying person, alternating with times of silence. Sometimes, the same prayer should be repeated many times. The Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be are also appropriate. The dying person may be signed on the forehead with the cross, as was done at Baptism.



Short Texts

What will separate us from the love of Christ? ~ Romans 8:35

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ~ Romans 14:8

We shall always be with the Lord. ~ 1 Thessalonians 4:17

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ~ Psalm 25:1

Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me. ~ Psalm 23:4

Into your hands I commend my spirit. ~ Psalm 31:6a

Jesus, remember me when you come into
your kingdom. ~ Luke 23:42

Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. ~ Acts 7:59

Holy Mary, pray for me.

Saint Joseph, pray for me.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.



Scripture Readings

Among many appropriate Scripture readings are the following:

Job 19:23–27

Psalm 23

Psalm 91

Psalm 121

1 John 4:16

Revelation 21:1–7

Matthew 25:1–13

Luke 22:39–46

Luke 23:44–49

Luke 24:1–8

John 6:37–40

John 14:16, 23, 27

Those gathered might take turns reading these passages from the family Bible.

Prayer of Commendation

As the time of death approaches, this prayer may be said.

Go Forth, Christian soul, from this world
in the name of God the almighty Father,
who created you;
in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who suffered for you;
in the name of the Holy Spirit,
who was poured out upon you;
go forth, faithful Christian.

May you live in peace this day;
may your home be with God in Zion,
with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God;
with Joseph, and all the angels and saints.



Gathering in the Presence of the Body

When the family first gathers around the body, before or after it is prepared for burial, all or some of the following prayers may be used.
It is most fitting that, where possible, family members take part in preparing the body for burial.

All make the Sign of the Cross. Then one member of the family reads:

My brothers and sisters, Jesus says:

“Come to me, all you who labor 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.

Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.”

The body may then be sprinkled with holy water:

The Lord God lives in his holy temple yet abides in our midst.

Since in Baptism, N. became God’s temple

and the Spirit of God lived in him/her,

with reverence we bless his/her mortal body.

Then one member of the family may say:

With God there is mercy and fullness of redemption;

let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father . . .

Then this prayer is said:

Into your hands, O Lord,

we humbly entrust our brother/sister N.

In this life you embraced him/her with your tender love;

Deliver him/her now from every evil

and bid him/her enter eternal rest.

The old order has passed away:

welcome him/her then into paradise,

where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain,

but the fullness of peace and joy

with your Son and the Holy Spirit

forever and ever. Amen.

All may sign the forehead of the deceased with the Sign of the Cross.

One member of the family says:

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord;

let them rest from their labors

for their good deeds go with them.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

And let perpetual light 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.

All make the Sign of the Cross.

Then one member of the family says:

May the love of God and the peace of the

Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us

and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:

in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer at Graveside

Lord Jesus Christ,

by your own three days in the tomb,

you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you

and so made the grave a sign of hope

that promises resurrection

even as it claims our mortal bodies.

Grant that our brother/sister, N., may sleep here in peace

until you awaken him/her to glory,

for you are the resurrection and the life.

Then he/she will see you face to face

and in your light will see light

and know the splendor of God,

for you live and reign forever and ever. Amen.





The Brazen Serpent Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus, purify this food and drink and all I consume in any way. Let it lead me to strength, to apostolate, and to take the next right step; at all times, in all places, and in all situations.

Lord, let me never spurn the abundant natural means you have prepared for us. Let me take the next right step while never petulantly demanding that only Your supernatural means of protection are acceptable to me. Never let my obedient prudence stray into hubris that I know better than You, thus forfeiting the divine protection that is essential to me. Let me use all the tools You have given to discern between good and evil, knowing that I am responsible to you for every decision I ever make and cannot abrogate them to anyone else under the color of authority.

When I err, Lord, show me Your mercy by firmly correcting me and filling me with resolve to get back up and go forward in Your service. When I have done well, give me the grace to minister to Your people who have stumbled, acting as true brothers and sisters in building each other up to strengthen Your Kingdom. Teach me to want what You want, never to attack the freedom You have given all people, but to convince and exhort in unfailing patience and humility. Lead me in a plain path, turning neither to the left out of anger nor to the right out of fear. Create in me a clean heart that I may participate with You in proclaiming Your Kingdom. Lord, You know I love you. Have mercy on me, a poor sinner.

Amen.



Surrender Prayer Novena

Day 1: Why do you confuse yourselves by worrying? Leave the care of your affairs to me and everything will be peaceful. I say to you in truth that every act of true, blind, complete surrender to me produces the effect that you desire and resolves all difficult situations.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

Day 2: Surrender to me does not mean to fret, to be upset, or to lose hope, nor does it mean offering to me a worried prayer asking me to follow you and change your worry into prayer. It is against this surrender, deeply against it, to worry, to be nervous and to desire to think about the consequences of anything. It is like the confusion that children feel when they ask their mother to see to their needs, and then try to take care of those needs for themselves so that their childlike efforts get in their mother's way. Surrender means to placidly close the eyes of the soul, to turn away from thoughts of tribulation and to put yourself in my care, so that only I act, saying "You take care of it".

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

Day 3: How many things I do when the soul, in so much spiritual and material need, turns to me, looks at me and says to me; "You take care of it", then closes its eyes and rests. In pain you pray for me to act, but that I act in the way you want. You do not turn to me, instead, you want me to adapt your ideas. You are not sick people who ask the doctor to cure you, but rather sick people who tell the doctor how to. So do not act this way, but pray as I taught you in the Our Father: "Hallowed be thy Name", that is, be glorified in my need. "Thy kingdom come", that is, let all that is in us and in the world be in accord with your kingdom. "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven", that is, in our need, decide as you see fit for our temporal and eternal life. If you say to me truly: "Thy will be done", which is the same as saying: "You take care of it", I will intervene with all my omnipotence, and I will resolve the most difficult situations.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

Day 4: You see evil growing instead of weakening? Do not worry. Close your eyes and say to me with faith: "Thy will be done, You take care of it". I say to you that I will take care of it, and that I will intervene as does a doctor and I will accomplish miracles when they are needed. Do you see that the sick person is getting worse? Do not be upset, but close your eyes and say "You take care of it". I say to you that I will take care of it, and that there is no medicine more powerful than my loving intervention. By my love, I promise this to you.

O Jesus, I surrendered myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)