

# PRAYERS



FOR THOSE WHO SIT  
WITH THE DYING

***The Guild suggests you use these prayers and meditations in whatever way seems most comfortable.***

- ◆ Holding a crucifix or cross can give great reassurance to a dying person.
- ◆ They may be unconscious or restless; hold their hand so they know they are not alone, but be sensitive if they become agitated, and refrain for a while.
- ◆ Someone may be struggling against death because they have something important on their mind. Do not be afraid to call your parish priest or hospital chaplain (and be sensitive if they need to speak privately).

- ◆ Do not be afraid of silence – ‘the matrix of eternity.’ (*Mother Mary Clare*). ‘The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us... We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness.’ (*Mother Teresa*)
- ◆ Hearing is often the last sense to fail. Talk to your loved one rather than about him/her, and do not say anything in his/her presence s/he would not wish to hear.
- ◆ Be aware of your own needs and take some rest; if you become too exhausted, or go without food, you may become less able to help your loved one.

Lord, before the mystery of death I am silent  
and I do not know what to say or do.  
I am empty and drained of feeling.  
Accept me as I am,  
for this is all I have to give,  
and help me to learn stillness  
as I hold the hand of .....  
So s/he knows s/he is not alone.



Jesus,  
Son of the living God,  
have mercy on me, a sinner.



All shall be well...  
and all shall be well...  
and all manner of thing  
shall be well.



*Jesus said:*  
Come to me, all who are weary, and I will give  
you rest.  
*(Matthew 11:28)*

O Lord support us all the day long  
through this troublous life  
till the shades lengthen,  
the evening comes,  
the busy world is hushed,  
the fever of life is over  
and our work is done.  
Then, Lord, in your mercy  
give us a safe lodging,  
a holy rest,  
and peace at the last. Amen.



*Jesus said:*

Indeed, I promise you,  
Today you will be with me  
In Paradise.

*(Luke 22:43)*



God be in my head and in my understanding.  
God be in my eyes and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart and in my thinking.  
God be at my end and at my departing.

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.

He guides me along the right path;  
He is true to his name.  
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.

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

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

*(Psalm 22[23])*

Lord, thank you for.....,  
for the good times we have shared  
and for the difference s/he has made to our lives.  
Forgive whatever wrongs there have been  
and drive out oppressive guilt and fear.  
Help us trust your all-embracing love,  
and know, when we lose sight of one another,  
that we will meet again  
where there is no more sadness, pain or death,  
in the brightness of your eternal kingdom.



Jesus...  
Jesus only...  
Jesus always...  
Jesus in all things.



For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life,  
nor principalities or powers...nor height, nor depth,  
nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us  
from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our  
Lord.

*(Romans 38:39)*

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 Heaven,  
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God,  
with Joseph, and with all the angels and saints.

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.  
May you see your Redeemer face to face,  
and enjoy the vision of God for ever. Amen.



Heavenly Father,  
give us the certainty that beyond death  
there is a life  
where broken things are mended  
and lost things are found;  
where there is rest for the weary and joy for  
the sad;  
where all that we have loved and willed of  
good exists,  
and where we will meet again our loved ones.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, help us see that death is not a failure,  
but rather an event within eternal life...  
'In my end is my beginning'.

Yet the agony of parting  
seems too much for us to bear.  
Lord, help us grasp  
this is not 'goodbye',  
but 'au revoir' – 'until we meet again'...  
...And may we merrily meet in Heaven.



The sadness of death gives way  
to the bright promise of immortality.  
Lord, for your faithful people,  
life is changed, not ended.  
And when the body of our earthly dwelling  
lies in death,  
we gain an everlasting place in Heaven.



Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

*(Luke 23:46)*

*Jesus said:*

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.

*(John 14:1-3)*



Death is not extinguishing the Light –  
But putting out the light  
because the Dawn has come.



*Jesus said:*

I am with you always, to the end of time.

*(Matthew 28:20)*

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Praying and caring for the sick, dying,  
departed and bereaved

**PHOTO ON FRONT COVER:**

*Altar Crucifix in the Guild of All Souls' Chantry Chapel  
of St Michael and the Holy Souls, at the Shrine of  
Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk.*