



CATHOLIC PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE DYING AND WHO HAVE JUST DIED



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People who are dying may, often, seem to be unconscious or semi responsive. We know that often enough there is good awareness, and that, even though there may be no response, they will participate in prayers and listen. The prayers below may be said therefore, firstly because they are effective prayers to help the dying on their journey to meet Our Lord, and secondly because, if said aloud in the presence of the person dying, that person will know those who care and love them are near. They may of course be said more than once, though the time they allow you to spend praying with the person who is dying will mean that frequent repetition is not required.

Prayers for those in their last agony

Lord, have mercy on him (her)

Christ, have mercy on him (her)

Lord, have mercy on him (her)

Holy Mary, pray for him (her)

All you holy Angels and Archangels, pray for him (her)

Holy Abel, pray for him (her)

All you choirs of the righteous, pray for him (her)

Holy Abraham, pray for him (her)

St John the Baptist, pray for him (her)

St Joseph, pray for him (her)

All you holy Patriarchs and Prophets, pray for him (her)

St Peter, pray for him (her)

St Paul, pray for him (her)

St Andrew, pray for him (her)

St John, pray for him (her)

All you holy Apostles and Evangelists, pray for him (her)

All you holy disciples of our Lord, pray for him (her)

All you holy Innocents, pray for him (her)

St Stephen, pray for him (her)

St Lawrence, pray for him (her)

All you holy Martyrs, pray for him (her)

St Sylvester, pray for him (her)

St Gregory, pray for him (her)

St Augustine, pray for him (her)
All you holy Bishops and Confessors, pray for him (her)
St Benedict, pray for him (her)
St Francis, pray for him (her)
St Camillus, pray for him (her)
St John of God, pray for him (her)
All you holy Monks and Hermits, pray for him (her)
St Mary Magdalene, pray for him (her)
St Lucy, pray for him (her)
All you holy Virgins and Widows, pray for him (her)
All you Men and Women, Saints of God, make intercession for him (her)
Be merciful to him (her), spare him (her) O Lord
Be merciful to him (her), set him (her) free O Lord
Be merciful to him (her), deliver him (her) O Lord
From your wrath, deliver him (her) O Lord
From the danger of death, deliver him (her) O Lord
From an evil death, deliver him (her) O Lord
From the pains of hell, deliver him (her) O Lord
From all evil, deliver him (her) O Lord
From the power of the devil, deliver him (her) O Lord
Through your Nativity, deliver him (her) O Lord
Through your Cross and Passion, deliver him (her) O Lord
Through your Death and Burial, deliver him (her) O Lord
Through your holy Resurrection, deliver him (her) O Lord
Through your wonderful Ascension, deliver him (her) O Lord
Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
deliver him (her) O Lord
In the day of Judgment, deliver him (her) O Lord
We sinners, we beseech you to hear us
That you would spare him (her), we beseech you, hear us
Lord, have mercy on him (her)
Christ, have mercy on him (her)
Lord, have mercy on him (her)

When the sick person seems to be about to die

Go forth, O Christian soul, out of this world, in the name of God the Father almighty, who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who suffered for you; in the name of the Holy Spirit, who sanctified you; in the name of the holy and glorious Mary, Virgin and Mother of God; in the name of the Angels, Archangels, Thrones and Dominions, Cherubim and Seraphim; in the name of the Patriarchs and Prophets, of the holy Apostles and evangelists, of the holy Martyrs, Confessors, Monks and Hermits, of the holy Virgins and of all the Saints of God. May your place be this day in peace: through Christ our Lord

Amen

O merciful and gracious God. O God, according to your many mercies you blot out the sins of those who repent. You graciously forgive the guilt of their past offences. Mercifully look upon this your servant (handmaid) N. Grant him (her) a full freedom from all his (her) sins. For with a sorrowful heart he (she) most earnestly begs it of you. Renew, O merciful Father, whatever has been wrought in him (her) by human weakness, or by the frauds and deceits of the enemy. Associate him (her) as a member of redemption to the unity of the Body of the Church. Have mercy, Lord, on his (her) sighs. Have mercy on his (her) tears. Admit him (her) to the Sacrament of your forgiveness, for he (she) has no hope but in your mercy: through Christ our Lord

Amen

I commend you, dear Brother (Sister), to the almighty God. I give you over to the care of him, whose creature you are. May you then, when you shall have paid the debt of all mankind by death, return to your Maker, for he formed you from the dust of the earth. When, therefore, your soul shall depart from your body, may the glorious armies of the Angels meet you. May the court of the Apostles receive you. May the triumphant band of glorious Martyrs come out to welcome you. May the splendid company of Confessors clad in their white robes surround you. May the choir of joyful Virgins receive you. May you meet with a blessed rest in the embrace of the Patriarchs. May St. Joseph, the most gracious Patron of the dying, comfort you with great hope. May Mary, the holy Mother of God look upon you with mercy. May Jesus Christ appear to you with a mild and joyful

countenance. May he appoint you a place among those who are to stand before him forever. May you be a stranger to all that is punished with darkness, with flames, and condemned to torments. May the most wicked enemy, with all his evil spirits, be forced to give way. May he tremble at your approach in the company of Angels. May he with confusion fly away into the vast chaos of eternal night. Let God arise and his enemies be dispersed. Let them that hate him fly before his face. Let them vanish like smoke. As wax that melts before the fire, so let sinners perish in the sight of God. But may the righteous rejoice and be happy in his presence. May then all the legions of hell be confounded and put to shame. May none of the ministers of Satan dare to stop you in your way. May Christ deliver you from torments, for he was crucified for you. May he deliver you from eternal death, for he deigned to die for you. May Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, place you in the landscape of his Paradise. May he, the true Shepherd, acknowledge you for one of his flock. May he absolve you from all your sins. May he place you at his right hand in the midst of his elect. May you see your Redeemer face to face. Standing always in his presence, may you behold with happy eyes the most clear truth. May you be placed among the companies of the blessed. May you enjoy the happiness of the contemplation of your God forever. Amen

Receive, Lord, your servant (handmaid) into the place of salvation, which he (she) hopes to obtain through your mercy. Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) from all danger of hell; and from all pain and sorrow. Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid), as you delivered Enoch and Elias from the common death of the world (*Genesis 5.21-24; 4 Kings 2.1-13*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered Noah from the flood (*Genesis 6.6-9.17*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered Abraham from the midst of the Chaldeans (*Genesis 12.1-9*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered Job from all his afflictions (*Job 42*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered Isaac from being sacrificed by his father (*Genesis 22*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered Lot from being destroyed in the flames of Sodom (*Genesis 19*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered Moses from the hands of Pharaoh, king of Egypt (*Exodus 2; 5 to 15*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered Daniel from the lions' den (*Daniel 6*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered the three children from the fiery furnace, and from the hands of an unmerciful king (*Daniel 3*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered Susanna from her false accusers (*Daniel 13*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered David from the hands of Saul and Goliath (*Kings 17 to 31*). Amen

Deliver, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) as you delivered Peter and Paul out of prison (*Acts 12.1-19 > 21 to 28*). Amen

We commend you, Lord, the soul of your servant (handmaid) N. We pray you, Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, that as in mercy to him (her) you became man, so now you would be pleased to admit him (her) to the embrace of your Patriarchs.

Remember, Lord, he (she) is your creature, not made by strange gods, but by you, the only living and true God. For there is no other but you. None can equal your work. Let his (her) soul rejoice in your presence. Do not remember his (her) former sins and excesses, which he (she) has fallen into, through the violence of passion and the corruption of his (her) nature. For although he (she) has sinned, yet he (she) has always firmly believed in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He (she) has had a zeal for your honour. He (she) has faithfully served you as his (her) God and the Creator of all things.

Do not remember, Lord, we pray you, the sins of his (her) youth and his (her) ignorances. But according to your great mercy, be mindful of him (her) in your heavenly glory. Let the heavens be opened to him (her). Let the angels rejoice with him (her). Let the archangel St Michael conduct him (her), for you have appointed him chief of the heavenly host. Let the holy Angels come out to meet him (her). Let them bring him (her) to the

city of the heavenly Jerusalem. Let blessed Peter, the Apostle, receive him (her), for to him God gave the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Let St Paul, the Apostle, assist him (her), for he was a vessel of election. Let St John, the beloved disciple, pray for him (her), for to him the secrets of heaven were revealed. Let all the holy Apostles pray for him (her), for they received from Jesus Christ the power of binding and loosing. Let all the Saints and Elect of God also pray for him (her), for in this world they have suffered torments in the name of Christ.

Being freed from the prison of his (her) body, may he (she) be admitted into the glory of your heavenly kingdom: through the grace and the merits of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen

Into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit (*Luke 23.4*)

O Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit (*Acts 7.59*)

Holy Mary, Mother of grace, Mother of mercy, defend me from the enemy and receive me at the hour of death

Prayers after death

C. Come to his (her) rescue, Saints of God; run out to meet him (her), angels of the Lord.

A. Welcome his (her) soul. Lead him (her) into the presence of the Most High.

C. May Christ, who called you, receive you. May the angels lead you to Abraham's bosom.

A. Welcome his (her) soul. Lead him (her) into the presence of the Most High.

C. Eternal rest grant to him (her) O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him (her).

A. Lead him (her) into the presence of the Most High

C. Lord, have mercy

A. Christ, have mercy

C. Lord, have mercy. Our Father...

A. ...who art in heaven

C. Eternal rest grant to him (her), O Lord

A. And let perpetual light shine upon him (her)

C. From the gates of hell

A. Deliver his (her) soul, O Lord

C. May he (she) rest in peace

A. Amen

C. O Lord, hear my prayer

A. And let my cry come unto you

C. The Lord is with you

A. And with you also

C. Let us pray.

To you, Lord, we commend the soul of your servant (handmaid) N. Being dead to this world, may he (she) live unto you. In your most merciful goodness forgive whatever sins he (she) has committed in this life through human weakness: through Christ our Lord
Amen

Grant O God, that while we lament the departure of your servant (handmaid), we may always remember we are most certainly to follow him (her). Give us grace to prepare for that last hour by a good Life. May we not be surprised by a sudden and unexpected death, but may we be ever watching. May we thus, when you call, enter into eternal glory: through Christ our Lord

Amen

Prayer of Surrender

My Lord and Saviour, in your arms I am safe; keep me and I have nothing to fear; give me up and I have nothing to hope for. I pray you not to make me rich, I pray you not to make me very poor; but I leave it all to you, because you know and I do not. If you bring pain or sorrow on me, give me grace to bear it well. If you give me health and strength and success in this world, keep me ever on my guard lest these great gifts carry me away from you. Give me ever to aim at setting forth your glory to live to and for you; to set a good example to all around me; give me to die just at that time and in that way which is most for your glory, and best for my salvation.

Prayer for a Happy Death

May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. There in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

SOME EXTRA PRAYERS AND HYMNS

Ave Maris Stella

Hail Star of the Sea. Truly art thou a star, O Mary! Our Lord indeed Himself, Jesus Christ, He is the truest and chiefest Star, the bright and morning Star, as St. John calls Him; that Star which was foretold from the beginning as destined to rise out of Israel, and which was displayed in figure by the star which appeared to the wise men in the East. But if the wise and learned and

they who teach men in justice shall shine as stars for ever and ever; and if the angels of the Churches are called stars in the Hand of Christ; if He honoured the apostles even in the days of their flesh by a title, calling them lights of the world; if even those angels who fell from heaven are called by the beloved disciple stars; if lastly all the saints in bliss are called stars, in that they are stars differing from stars in glory; therefore most assuredly, without any derogation from the honour of our Lord, is Mary His mother called the Star of the Sea, and the more so because even on her head she wears a crown of twelve stars. Jesus is the Light of the world, illuminating every man who cometh into it, opening our eyes with the gift of faith, making souls luminous by His Almighty grace; and Mary is the Star, shining with the light of Jesus, fair as the moon, and bright as the sun, the star of the heavens, which it is good to look upon, the star of the sea, which is welcome to the tempest-tossed, at whose smile the evil spirit flies, the passions are hushed, and peace is poured upon the soul.

Hail then, Star of the Sea, we rejoice in the recollection of thee. Pray for us ever at the throne of Grace; plead our cause, pray with us, present our prayers to thy Son and Lord - now and in the hour of death, Mary be thou our help.

Praise to the Holiest

Praise to the holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.

O wisest love! That flesh and blood
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against their foe,
Should strive and should prevail.

And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,

God's presence and his very self
And essence all divine.

O generous love that he who smote
In man for man the foe,
The double agony in man
For man should undergo

And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.
(The Dream of Gerontius)

Lead Kindly Light

Lead kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home -
Lead Thou me on!

Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene - one step enough for me.
I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
Shouldst lead me on.

I loved to choose and see my path, but now Lead Thou me on!
I loved the garish day, and in spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.
So long They power hath blest me, sure it still Will lead me on,

O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone;

And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

A Prayer to St. Philip

Philip, my holy advocate, who didst bear persecution and calumny, pain and sickness, with so admirable a patience, gain for me the grace of true fortitude under all the trials of this life. Alas! how I do need patience! I shrink from every small inconvenience; I sicken under every light affliction; I fret at every trifling contradiction; I fret and am cross at every little suffering of body. Gain for me the grace to enter with hearty good-will into all such crosses as I may receive day by day from my Heavenly Father. Let me imitate thee, as thou didst imitate my Lord and Saviour, that so, as thou hast attained heaven by thy calm endurance of bodily and mental pain, I too may attain the merit of patience, and the reward of life everlasting.



Details from the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, by JRC Martin.