

A loved one passed away



Praying with Montligeon

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Notre-Dame
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Recommend
your loved ones to
the Fraternity of
Montligeon

Enrolment:
www.montligeon.org

The shrine of Our Lady of Montligeon

World centre of prayer
for the deceased

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Shrine of Christian Hope

He, or she, has returned to the Father's abode and I was not at his or her side.

Naturally, dying is always solitary passage. Yet I would have liked to have been with him, her, all the way through, and to have been able to tell him, or her, "You are loved, go in peace, you may leave now."

Although we live in a hyper-connected world, we still experience that physical proximity is matchless.

Today, being lock down at home, isolation weights me down ever more.

Amidst this very state of solitude, I am invited to unveil a presence, that of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, and moreover, that of the communion of saints, of all Souls, as well as that of the deceased for whom I wish to pray presently.

Scripture reading:
John 19, 25-30

I could reflect on this excerpt and contemplate Mary standing by the cross. One might argue that she, nonetheless, was with her Son when he passed away. True enough, yet Mary is most probably the only person who experienced with such intensity her infinite powerlessness faced with the death of a beloved, and in her case, that of her own Son.

Although devastated, Mary carries on believing, Mary carries on hoping. Her heart is torn apart, yet the flame of hope is still alight with a very special glow.

In this day and age, Mary remains ever more the glowing star of hope!

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst". There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said "It is finished" And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Praying the Rosary

I could pray a decade and especially reflect on the last sorrowful mystery, that is the death of Jesus on the cross.

Supplication

N., the angels
Of God lead you on your way;
the martyrs receive you and
introduce you in the
Heavenly abode.
A procession of angels will
come and greet you and
thus, alike Lazarus the
beggar, you will enter into
eternal rest.
Amen

**Our Lady of Montligeon,
pray for N.
and for the souls in
purgatory!**

* Replace "N" by the name of your loved one

On the eve of the funerals

Tomorrow the funerals of the one I love will take place. I might be able to be among the very few people attending.

However, the health safety regulations due to the epidemic might prevent me from going to church and/or attending the funeral service.

No matter what, I am invited from now on to renew my trust in the Lord and my faith in the Resurrection.

Psalm 26

Psalm 26 is all about trusting in God.

Throughout it is "I" who speaks; whomever is this I referring to originally, it may actually be me, personally, who intends to say those very words; I might also pray this psalm on behalf of my recently deceased loved one.

*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom do I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom am I afraid [...]?*

*One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek: To dwell in the
LORD'S house all the days
of my life, to gaze on the
LORD'S beauty, to visit his
temple.*

*For God will hide me in his
shelter in time of trouble;
Will conceal me in the cover
of his tent; and set me high
upon a rock.*

*Even now my head is held
high above my enemies on
every side!*

*I will offer in his tent
sacrifices ; with shouts
of joy; I will sing and
chant praise to the
LORD.*

*Hear my voice, LORD, when I
call; have mercy on me and
answer me.*

*"Come," says my heart,
"seek God's face"; your
face, LORD, do I seek!*

*Do not hide your face from
me; do not repel your servant
in anger. You are my help; do
not cast me off; do not
forsake me, God my saviour!*

Praying the Rosary

I could pray a decade and reflect especially on the first Glorious Mystery, which is the Resurrection of Christ. I might be overwhelmed by pain, despondency, and confusion.

In such trying times, the Lord reaches out to me and invites me to receive the Good News of the Resurrection; Christ has risen from the dead and our dear deceased too are called to rise with Him and in Him!

Prayer to Our Lady of Montligeon

*Our Lady of Deliverance,
Have compassion on all our
departed, especially for N.
Intercede for him, her, and
may the purifying love of God
lead him, her, to full
deliverance.*

*May our prayer, united with the
prayer of the whole Church,
Obtain for them joy beyond all
their desires, and bring
consolation and relief to our
loved ones in their suffering
and distress.*

*Mother of the Church, help us,
pilgrims on earth, to be better
in living each day of our
journey towards the
Resurrection.*

*Heal the wounds of heart and
soul. Help us to become of the
Unseen God,
Seeking already what the eye
cannot see. Grant us the grace
to become apostles of hope
like those who keep vigil
awaiting the dawn. Refuge of
sinners and Queen of all Saints,
Gather us all together one day,
in our Father's House,
For the eternal Easter,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit.
Amen*

**Our Lady of Montligeon,
pray for N. and for the souls
in Purgatory.**

On the day of the funerals

The funerals will take place today and I shall most probably not be attending. Only a few weeks ago, I would have never thought it so! Although I pine to be in church and pray, to bless the coffin one last time at the cemetery, and be amidst friends and family, I have to remain at home. At times, lockdown almost feels like imprisonment...

Yet, I might use this time and consider the life of monks and nuns who, living apart from the world, are yet deeply united to it through prayer. In the present situation, I may be called to turn my dwelling into a cell or a house of prayer.

During the funerals, I can unite spiritually with the service. If I feel up to it, I might contemplate, and eventually discuss with kin, the prayers and readings chosen for the service. I might also wish to support my prayer with the following texts.

**Scripture reading:
Matthew 6,1-6.16-18**

Today I could reflect on the scripture reading of the gospel given on Ash Wednesday.

My day could be that of prayer, fasting and sharing:

Three tangible ways of being in spiritual communion with the deceased's family and of entrusting him, or her, to the Lord.

I could ponder on the following sentence: *"When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."*

}} "(But) take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

Praying the Rosary

I could pray a decade and reflect especially on the fourth Glorious Mystery: I' that of Mary's Assumption. May Our Lady, assumed body and soul into Heaven, intercede for our deceased .

Supplication

Lord Jesus,
I entrust N. with you,
Your love sustained him, her,
all life long. Deliver him, her,
now from all evil
He, she, has left this
transitory world, take him,
her, with You, where pain
and grief are no more, but
only joy and peace.

May the souls of all the
faithful departed, through
the mercy of God, rest in
peace.

**Our Lady of Montligeon,
pray for N. and for the souls
in Purgatory!**

The day after the funerals

I have been denied all pertaining: the ultimate moments with my loved one, the funeral service at the church, the time at the cemetery, and the coming together with kinsfolks, relatives and friends afterwards. I was divested of these very special instants that make separation from the loved one manifest and death even more tangible, and at the same time, more humane somehow.

I may even feel that I am going through a kind of nightmare or a ghastly sci-fi movie.

I will most probably need time to realise what did truly happen; the course might be long. Yet, on the way, I can be sure to find Mary, the star of hope, always at my side

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Our Lady's hope

Today I could today reflect upon an occurrence which is not related as such in the Gospel, but which belongs to the Church steadfast tradition: that is Mary's prayer on Holy Saturday. Jesus has been laid in the tomb. As for his disciples, they have lost all hope. Failure seems to prevail. However, there endures Mary. The faith and the hope of the Church have found seclusion in her heart. Mary's own faith and hope are evoked by Benedict XVI at the end of *Spe Salvi*, his encyclical on hope.

The sword of sorrow pierced your heart. Had hope died? Was the world to definitively remain without light, and life without purpose? At that moment, Mary, you probably recalled the angel's words as he answered in answer to your apprehension at the Annunciation: "Do not be afraid, Mary!" (Lk 1:30). How many times had the Lord, your Son, told his disciples: "Do not be afraid"? At the hour of the Golgotha, you heard Him say so to your heart. Just before his betrayal, he told his disciples: "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33). "Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (Jn 14:27). "Do not be afraid, Mary!" In Nazareth the angel had also told you: "Of his kingdom

there will be no end" (Lk 1:33). Could it be that it had come to an end before coming into being though? Noay! For at the foot of the Cross, in Jesus very own words, you became the mother of believers. Still, in the obscurity of Holy Saturday, you made your way towards Easter morning, full of hope. The joy of the Resurrection stirred your heart; thus you entered into a new kind of relationship with the disciples, destined to become the family of Jesus through faith.

Praying the Rosary

I could pray a decade and especially reflect on the last Glorious Mystery, that of Mary's coronation in Heaven. Prompted by the after-life realities, I know that separation is not for ever and that, together with all our beloved departed, we shall live in ever-lasting joy.

We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God, despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. *Amen.*

**Our Lady of Montligeon,
pray for N. and for the souls
in Purgatory.**

Supplication

The most ancient prayer to Mary is not, as one might think, that of the "Hail Mary" but that of the "Sub tuum Praesidium" (Under your patronage), a simple and concise prayer, yet most intense, dating from the third century.

I might want to say it several times.

Recommend Your loved ones to the Fraternity of Montligeon

Perpetual Mass

Enrolees in the Fraternity of Montligeon, whether still living or deceased, benefit from the perpetual mass celebrated daily to their intention.

Prayer Fraternity

Enrolees in the Fraternity benefit from the prayers of the shrine and that of its associated groups.

**Enrolment on
www.montligeon.org**

Prayer to Our Lady of Montligeon

Our Lady of Deliverance,
Have compassion on all our departed,
Especially those who are most in need of
the Lord's mercy.
Intercede for all those who have gone before us
And may the purifying love of God lead them
to full deliverance.
May our prayer, united with the prayer of
the whole Church,
Obtain for them joy beyond all their desires,
And bring consolation and relief to our loved ones
in their suffering and distress.
Mother of the Church, help us, pilgrims on earth,
to be better in living each day of our journey
towards the Resurrection.
Heal the wounds of heart and soul.
Help us to become of the Unseen God,
Seeking already what the eye cannot see.
Grant us the grace to become apostles of hope
like those who keep vigil awaiting the dawn.
Refuge of sinners and Queen of all Saints,
Gather us all together one day,
in our Father's House,
For the eternal Easter,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Lady of Montligeon,
pray for the Souls in Purgatory.

