

Praying for a deceased beloved



Prayer suggestions when faced with the death
of a beloved

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**Notre-Dame
de Montligeon**

Recommend
your beloved
to the spiritual Fraternity
of Our Lady of Montligeon

**Enrolment on
www.montligeon.org**

**Roman Catholic Shrine of
Our Lady of Montligeon**

World Centre of prayer for
the deceased

-

And of Christian Hope

He or she has passed away,
leaving me in grief and
solitude, incomprehension
and perhaps even in anger.

How can I be of help to him or
her? What can I do to help
myself and step forward in my
bereavement?

I might not know how to pray, I
might not even believe...

Yet, I can cry out and say:"
God, if you exist, have pity on
the one I love"; or, "Virgin
Mary, Mother of all mankind,
watch over your child".

Entering into prayer

I find a position favourable to prayer, and place myself in front of a pious image, or before the Crucifix, together with maybe a picture of the beloved departed... and eventually a lit candle.

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I let go of distractions and focus on opening my heart

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Then, in my own words, I address God, (the Father, or Jesus, the Son, or ask for Mary's intercession,) thus entrusting my beloved departed, maybe recalling my relation to him or her.

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During the course of my prayer, I might wish to pause in silence and/or recall what we used to share.

I close this prayer time with commending him or her to God.

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I might choose to take up a resolution (cf. p. 22-23) to prolong my prayer in a tangible way, and help me open up to God's love and that of my fellows.

Praying in a simple way

I sign myself (sign of the Cross).

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

I take a moment of recollection, recalling my beloved deceased one.

I entrust him/her to the Lord:

O Lord, hear my prayer for **(N.)**, gratify him/her with your light, and let him/her find in your Kingdom rest, peace and joy.

Through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

I pray one *Our Father* and one *Hail Mary*:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name; 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.

Again I sign myself.

(N.) : name of the person you pray for.

To prolong my prayer

I might wish to continue and use the prayer pattern of the previous page, or I might choose to add a prayer from the subsequent pages: such as a chaplet decade (Rosary), a reading excerpt from the Scripture, a psalm, a prayer petition; or to contemplate a meditation, sing an hymn, etc.

The Rosary

Entrusted by the Virgin Mary to Saint Dominic, the Rosary is a repetitive prayer which motions to letting oneself be remodelled by the recitation, even when focussing seems so difficult.

The Rosary is known as the "prayer of the heart", the prayer of the meek.

Based on the meditation of an episode of Christ's life (i.e. his birth, death, resurrection etc.), a decade is prayed by means of one *Our Father*, followed by 10 *Hail Mary*, and concludes by a *Glory be to the Father* (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).

A chaplet made of 5 decades is called a Rosary.

Do not hesitate to pray one chaplet -or more- for your deceased, thus entrusting them to the Virgin Mary's intercession.

Scripture reading

John 14, 1-6

(Jesus said to his disciples)
"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would have I told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to Him: "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him: "I am the Way and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

2 Co 5,1.6-10

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made from hands, eternal in heaven. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord? For we walk by faith and not by sight.

Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

Psalm 129

Out of the depths
I cry to you, O Lord!
O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my prayer!
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen
for the morning.

More than watchmen for the morning,
More than watchmen for the morning,
O Israel, hope in the Lord.

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.
And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

To contemplate further

Hope is an anchor

“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5), Paul told us. Hope draws us and gives meaning to our life. I do not see the afterlife, but hope is God’s gift that draws us toward life, toward eternal joy. Hope is an anchor that we have from the other side, and we, grasping the rope, sustain ourselves (cf. Heb 6:18-19). ‘I know that my Redeemer lives, and I shall see him’. And repeat this in times of joy and in bad times, in times of death, let us say this.

**Homely of His Holiness
Pope Francis, on 2nd
November 2020**

I am loved in Heaven

" After Marie entered the Carmel, and I no longer had her to listen to my scruples, I turned towards Heaven and confided them to the four little angels [her 4 brothers and sisters died at an early age] who had already gone before me, for I thought that these innocent souls, who had never known sorrow or fear, ought to have pity on their poor little suffering sister. I talked to them with childish simplicity, telling them that, as I was the youngest of the family, I had always been the most petted and loved by my parents and sisters; that if they had remained on earth they would no doubt have given me the same proofs of their affection.

The fact that they had gone to Heaven seemed no reason why they should forget me—on the contrary, as they were able to draw from the treasury of Heaven, they ought to obtain for me the grace of peace, and prove that they still knew how to love me.

The answer was not long in coming; soon my soul was flooded with the sweetest peace. I knew that I was loved, not only on earth but also in Heaven.

Saint Therese of Lisieux

(Story of a Soul, manuscript A)

Age-old prayers for the dead

Venite

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 the
heavenly dwelling places.
Come to meet him/her,
Angels of the Lord! Receive
his/her soul and present
him/her to God the Most
High.

Eternal rest grant unto
them, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon
them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen.

Mercy

Mercy Lord,
for the souls to whom you
united me by enduring and
affectionate bonds, and
whom you beseech me to
love.

Lord, have compassion in
Thy Mercy, on the souls of
my parents, benefactors,
and friends. Be attentive to
the voice of my pleading,
mourning and sighing.

Dear Lord, and you Our
Mother Mary, be propitious!
Call your children and our
brothers to everlasting
light, peace and joy.

Amen.

Prayer by Saint Cæsarius of Arles

Lord God, divine Father, eternal and almighty God, I beseech Thee for the soul of **(N.)** to whom you have ordered to leave this world to come to you: deign to grant him a place of rest, of light and of peace. May he be allowed to pass through the gates of death unhindered, to stand in the abode of the saints and in the holy light that you once promised to Abraham and his descendants. May his soul not endure any torment but, when the great day of Resurrection and reward comes, deign, Lord, to resuscitate him / her in the company of the saints and the elect; remit to him / her all his faults and sins so that he / she may obtain with you immortal life and the Eternal Kingdom.

Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

(N.) : name of the person you pray for.

Related prayers

Short commendations for the deceased

Lord,
(N.) is gone now from this earthly dwelling, may he/she live in your kingdom. In your infinite mercy and love, blot out the sins he/she has committed through human weakness.

Brief prayers

May the soul of **(N.)**, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

And let perpetual light shine upon him or her.

(N.): name of the person you pray for.

Prayer in time of bereavement

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 trying time. Make our faith strong through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary

At the Cross

O Mary, have compassion on us whilst we mourn and grieve. Shield us with your mantle of tenderness as we yield and despair, wrecked in desolate nights. Summon us at your side, when you stand at the cross where your Son laid and expired, transfigured by utter love.

May His affection enfold us as we too stand by the cross. Help our inner gaze encounter the mighty power of exposed love.

Even though the tragedy we withstand cannot be removed, may the Passion of your Son and your unconditional love enfold us in renewed trust.

(Sister Veronique Margron)

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 do 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.

Amen.

Prayers by Saints

by Charles de Foucauld

Father,

I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will.

Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all. I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures - I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul: I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father.

Amen.

by Saint Francis of Assisi

With all my voice I cry to the Lord, with all my voice I entreat the Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him; I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints within me. (...)

Listen, then, to my cry for I am in the depth of distress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me for they are stronger than I. Bring my soul out of prison and then I shall praise your name.

Around me the just will assemble because of your goodness to me.

Amen.

by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux: *look to the Star*

Following her, you do not stray; invoking her, you do not despair; thinking of her, you do not wander; upheld by her, you do not fall; shielded by her, you do not fear; guided by her, you do not grow weary; favoured by her, you reach the goal.

Mary is this noble star, whose beams illuminate the entire universe, shine in Heaven and penetrate up to the abysses.

She irradiates the earth, heats the souls, fosters the virtues and consumes the vices. She glows by Her merits and Her example. All of you, who see yourselves amid the tides of the world, tossed by storms and tempests rather than walking on the land, do not turn your eyes away from this shining star, unless you want to be overwhelmed by the hurricane. If temptation storms, or you fall upon the

rocks of tribulation, look to the star: Call upon Mary!

If you are tossed by the waves of pride or ambition, detraction or envy, look to the star, call upon Mary. If anger or avarice or the desires of the flesh dash against the ship of your soul, turn your eyes to Mary. If troubled by the enormity of your crimes, ashamed of your guilty conscience, terrified by dread of the judgment, you begin to sink into the gulf of sadness or the abyss of despair, think of Mary.

In dangers, in anguish, in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let her name be even on your lips, ever in your heart; and the better to obtain the help of her prayers, imitate the example of her life

Hymns of trust in God

Be Thou my vision

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all-else to me, save that Thou art.

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2. Be Thou my Wisdom, Thou my true Word;

I ever with Thee, Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my great Father, I thy true son;

Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3. Be Thou my battle-shield, sword for my fight,

Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight.

Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower.

Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,

Thou mine inheritance, now and always:

Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,

High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

5. High King of heaven, my victory won,

May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Son!

Heart of my own heart,

whatever befall,

Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Be still, my soul! For God is on your side.

1. Be still, my soul! for God is
on your side;
bear patiently the cross of
grief or pain:
leave to your God to order and
provide,
who through all changes
faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! your best,
your heav'nly Friend
through thorny ways leads to
a joyful end.

2. Be still, my soul! for God will
undertake
to guide the future surely as
the past.
Your hope, your confidence,
let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be
clear at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves
and winds still know
the voice that calmed their
fury long ago.

3. Be still, my soul! the hour is
hastening on
when we shall be forever in
God's peace;
when disappointment, grief,
and fear are gone,
love's joys restored, our
strivings all shall cease.
Be still my soul! when change
and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall
meet at last.

Hymns to the Virgin

Ave Maria of Lourdes

1. Immaculate Mary, thy
praises we sing,
Who reignest in splendor
with Jesus our King.

Chorus:

**Ave, Ave,
Ave Maria. (x2)**

2. In heaven the blessed thy
glory proclaim,
On earth we thy children
invoke thy fair name.

(Chorus)

3. Thy name is our power,
thy virtues our light,
Thy love is our comfort, thy
pleading our might.

(Chorus)

4. We pray for our Mother,
the Church upon earth,
And bless, dearest Lady,
the land of our birth.

(Chorus)

Mother Dear, O Pray for Me

1. Mother dear, O pray for
me!
Whilst far from heav'n and
thee.
I wander in a fragile bark.
O'er life's tempestuous sea.
O Virgin Mother, from thy
throne,
So bright in bliss above.
Protect thy child and
cheer my path
With thy sweet smile of
love.

Chorus:

**Mother dear,
remember me.
And never cease thy care,
Till in heaven eternally,
Thy love and bliss I share**

Salve Regina

Hail, Holy Queen enthroned
above, O Maria!

Hail, Mother of mercy and
of love, O Maria!

Triumph all ye cherubim!
Sing with us ye seraphim!
Heaven and earth resound
the hymn!

Salve, salve, salve, Regina!

Our life, our sweetness
here below, O Maria!

Our hope in sorrow and in
woe, O Maria!

Triumph all ye cherubim!
Sing with us ye seraphim!
Heaven and earth resound
the hymn! Salve, salve,
salve, Regina!

To thee do we cry, poor
sons of Eve, O Maria!

To thee we sigh, we mourn,
we grieve, O Maria!

Triumph all ye cherubim!
Sing with us ye seraphim!
Heaven and earth resound
the hymn!

Salve, salve, salve, Regina!
Amen.

Sub tuum præsidium

We fly to Thy protection,
O Holy Mother of God;

Do not despise our
petitions

in our necessities,
but deliver us always

from all dangers,

O Glorious and Blessed
Virgin.

Amen.



Third century Egyptian papyrus
presenting the Sub tuum prayer,
probably the most ancient Christian
appeal to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Spiritual Fraternity of Montligeon : offer Perpetual Mass to your beloved

Perpetual Mass

Enrolling people in the Fraternity of Our Lady of Montligeon means offering them a perpetual Mass, plus ensuring them with the prayer of the shrine.

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Offered for a deceased person, the perpetual Mass is a way of continuing to manifest their love after they are gone.

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Offering the perpetual Mass for the living is endowing them with a spiritual gift which will endure for ever, even after they have passed away.

Enrol on www.montligeon.org
Tel. : 00 33 2 33 85 17 00



**Notre-Dame
de Montligeon**

Come and pray!

Counsel & consolation



With a nun, or a chaplain priest, at the shrine or by phone.

Reception desk:

Mondays to Fridays:

09:00-12:00/ 14:00-17:00

Saturdays & Sundays:

10:00-12:00/ 14:00-16:00

Tel.: 00 33 2 33 85 17 00



Light a candle for your deceased.

<https://montligeon.org/formulaire/#messe>



Write and entrust a "Thankyou/Sorry" to Our Lady of Montligeon, Our Lady of Deliverance.

<https://montligeon.org/en/a-thank-you-sorry-card-to-a-deceased-person/>

More under "Praying for the Dead" on:

<https://montligeon.org/en/praying-for-the-dead/>

Join in a mourning session



Take part in a "Comforting Halt" (2 days) or in a week-long mourning session at the shrine.

For more information:

<https://montligeon.org/en/emerging-from-mourning/>



Located at 93 miles from Paris, deep within the gorgeous Perche National Park, Montligeon is unique: it is the world centre of prayer for the dead.

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 witnesses 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.

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