

## **Resources for those whose loved one is dying and a priest is not available**

This information is provided to assist families, health care workers and parishes in their ministry to the sick. The prayers are taken from the *Pastoral Care of the Sick*, chapter 6 (see nos. 213, 214 and 215).

### **Commendation of the dying**

1. *Sign of the Cross*
2. *Short texts of scripture (which may be repeated softly and soothingly)*  
*Choose one or two.*

Who can separate us from the love of Christ?

We have an everlasting home in heaven.

We shall be with the Lord for ever.

To you, Lord, I lift up my soul.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Though I walk in the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit

Holy Mary, pray for me

Saint Joseph, pray for me

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

3. *Reading (or you may choose any appropriate passage from scripture that is meaningful to you or to the person who is dying)*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose:  
Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me in rights paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with  
your rod and your staff that give me courage.  
You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.

And/or

We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and  
he who abides in love abides in God and God in him.

And/or

Jesus says:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me. In my  
Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told  
you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a  
place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am  
you also may be. You know the way that leads where I go."

"Lord," said Thomas, "we do not know where you are going. How can we know  
the way?" Jesus told him:

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through  
me.

"Anyone who loves me will be true to my word, and my Father will love him; we  
will come to him and make our dwelling place with him.

“Peace’ is my farewell to you, my peace is my gift to you; I do not give it to you as the world gives peace. Do not be distressed or fearful.”

4. *Litany of the Saints*

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy

Holy Mary, mother of God  
Holy angels of God  
Abraham, our father in faith  
David, leader of God’s people  
All holy patriarchs and prophets

pray for him/her  
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Saint John the Baptist  
St. Joseph  
St. Peter and St. Paul  
St. Andrew  
St. John  
St. Mary Magdalene  
St. Stephen  
St. Ignatius  
St. Lawrence  
St. Perpetua and St. Felicity  
St. Agnes  
St. Gregory  
St. Augustine  
St. Athanasius  
St. Basil  
St. Martin  
St. Benedict  
St. Francis and St. Dominic  
St. Francis Xavier

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St. John Vianney “  
St. Catherine “  
St. Teresa “  
*Other saints may be added*  
All holy men and women “

Lord, be merciful	Lord, save your people
From all evil	“
From every sin	“
From Satan’s power	“
At the moment of death	“
From everlasting death	“
On the day of judgment	“
By your coming as man	“
By your suffering and cross	“
By your death and rising to new life	“
By your return in glory to the Father	“
By your gift of the Holy Spirit	“
By your coming again in glory	“

Be merciful to us sinners	Lord, hear our prayer
Bring N. to eternal life, first promised	
To him/her in baptism	“
Raise N. on the last day, for he/she	
Has eaten the bread of life	“
Let N. share in your glory for he/she	
Has shared in your suffering and death	“
Jesus, Son of the living God	“

Christ, hear us	Christ, hear us
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer	Lord Jesus, hear our prayer

### *5. Prayer of Commendation*

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.

And/or

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, we pray for your servant N. and commend him/her to your mercy. For his/her sake you came down from heaven; receive him/her into the joy of your kingdom.

For though he/she has sinned, he/she has not denied the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but has believed in God and has worshiped his/her Creator. Amen

And/or

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, the children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this land of exile. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; lead us home at last and show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus: O clement, O Loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

### *6. Prayer after death*

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 for ever.  
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 for ever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for the Family and Friends*

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 into a 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 opened 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 for ever and ever. Amen.