

In the Absence of A Public Service Pray for Those Who Have Died

Use this process to pray for a loved one or friend who has died during a time when a public service was not possible. You can pray this alone or with a small group of family or friends.

Begin by reflecting on these words of reassurance from Paul's letter to the Romans:

“Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If then we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Christ. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.” (Romans 6.3-4, 8-9)

- Remember the good things you knew or experienced about the deceased. (If you are in a small group, take a moment to share them with each other.)
- Remember silently any ways in which you were offended or hurt by the deceased, or any ways in which you may have offended or hurt the deceased. Entrust these hurts to God's healing and forgiveness.
- Remember any final thoughts you did not have a chance to share with the deceased.
- Take a moment to thank God in your own words for the gift of this person's life and friendship.

Pray this prayer:

O Lord, the death of [name] recalls our human condition and the brevity of our lives on earth. But for those who believe in you, death is not the end, nor does it destroy the bonds that you forge in our lives. Bring the light of Christ's resurrection to this time of sorrow as we celebrate the life and mourn the death of your servant [name].

Pray a decade of the Rosary and conclude with this prayer:

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our [brother][sister] in the sure and certain hope that together with all who have died in Christ [he][she] will rise with him on the last day. We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed on [name] in this life; they are signs to us of your goodness and love. Merciful Lord, open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith until we all meet in Christ.

Eternal rest grant unto [name], O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon [him][her]. May [his][her] soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Close by reflecting on these words of reassurance from Jesus 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 I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go to 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.... I am the way and the truth and the life.” (John 14.1-6)

If you wish, close your prayer by listening to “On Eagles Wings” (<https://bit.ly/on-eagles-wings>)