



Prayers for Those who Sit with the Dying

It is suggested that you use these prayers and meditations in whatever way seems most comfortable. Holding a crucifix or cross can give great reassurance to a dying person. They may be unconscious or restless; hold their hand so they know they are not alone, but be sensitive if they become agitated, and refrain for a while. Someone may be struggling against death because they have something important on their mind. Do not be afraid to call your parish priest or hospital chaplain (and be sensitive if they need to speak privately). Do not be afraid of silence - 'the matrix of eternity'. (Mother Mary Clare). 'The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us... We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness.' (Mother Teresa) Hearing is often the last sense to fail. Talk to your loved one rather than about him/her, and do not say anything in his/her presence s/he would not wish to hear. Be aware of your own needs and take some rest; if you become too exhausted, or go without food, you may become less able to help your loved one.

Lord, before the mystery of death I am silent and I do not know what to say or do. I am empty and drained of feeling. Accept me as I am, for this is all I have to give, and help me to learn stillness as I hold the hand of So s/he knows s/he is not alone. **Amen**

Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

All shall be well.... and all shall be well....
and all manner of thing shall be well

Jesus said: Come to me, all who are weary,
and I will give you rest.
(*Matthew 11:28*)

O Lord support us all the day long through
this troublous life till the shades lengthen,
the evening comes, the busy world is
hushed, the fever of life is over and our
work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy give
us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at
the last. **Amen.**

Jesus said: Indeed, I promise you, Today you
will be with me In Paradise.
(*Luke 22: 43*)

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in my eyes and in my looking. God
be in my mouth and in my speaking. God be
in my heart and in my thinking. God be at
my end and at my departing.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I
shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. Near restful
waters he leads me, to revive my drooping
spirit. He guides me along the right path; He
is true to his name. If I should walk in the
valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You
are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. You have
prepared a banquet for me in the sight of
my foes. My head you have anointed with
oil; my cup is overflowing. Surely goodness
and kindness shall follow me all the days of
my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (*Psalms 22(23)*)

Lord, thank you for....., for the
good times we have shared and for the
difference s/he has made to our lives.
Forgive whatever wrongs there have been
and drive out oppressive guilt and fear. Help
us trust your all-embracing love, and know,
when we lose sight of one another, that we
will meet again where there is no more
sadness, pain or death, in the brightness of
your eternal kingdom.

Jesus..... Jesus only..... Jesus always...
Jesus in all things.

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor
life, nor principalities or powers...nor height,
nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be
able to separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(*Romans 38: 39*)

Prayer to be used at the point of death

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 Heaven, with Mary,
the virgin Mother of God, with Joseph, and
with all the angels and saints.

I commend you, my dear brother/sister, to
Almighty God, and entrust you to your
Creator. May you return to Him who
formed you from the dust of the earth. May
holy Mary, the angels and all the saints
come to meet you as you go forth from this
life.

May Christ who was crucified for you bring
you freedom and peace. **Amen**