

Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael

A simple reflection at home on the day of a funeral you can't attend

It's so difficult when you can't go to a funeral, whether it's for family, friend or neighbour.

Many of us are struggling with this in the current crisis so this short reflection is shared with you to do at home, alone or with the people you live with to help you remember the person who has died, and to join in prayer with others remembering them at this sad time. You might ask others to take part at the same time in their own homes. When this crisis is over, we'll hopefully have the opportunity to gather together for Masses of remembrance and thanksgiving to remember the lives of those we love.

Your prayer and memories now can be part of that experience when the time comes.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Before finding a place to sit quietly, alone or with others in your home, you might find a photograph of the person who has died, write down some special memories, or play a special piece of music that connects you with the person you are remembering today.

You might like to light a candle. Then think about those who are at the funeral and pray for them. Then pray:

Be with us, loving God.

Hear our prayers and comfort us in our loss, and help us to trust in your Son Jesus, whom you raised from the dead. Strengthen our faith and renew our hope that N and all those we love will share in his resurrection. Amen.

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

Psalm 23

There may be times when a person's death has left us feeling guilty and now with no easy way to say sorry. If that is the case for you then the following prayer might help.

Forgive us Lord

Forgive us Lord, for the wrong we have done – and for all the good we failed to do. (Pause)

Forgive us if we have been impatient or hard to live with. (Pause)

Forgive us if we have hurt those we should love. (Pause)

Forgive us if we have made life difficult for anyone. (Pause)

Forgive us for any words of comfort, praise or thanks

which we might have spoken, and did not speak. (Pause)

Forgive us for any help we should have given, but did not give. (Pause)

Lord, show us Your merciful forgiveness. (Pause)

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. R. Amen.

Perhaps what is written above can be true of every relationship but overall our memories are fond and affectionate. So...

Take a moment to reflect on your memories.

- What stands out in your memory about N?

- What will you always remember about them?

- What things did you learn through their life and death, including about God?

- If you knew N through their family, remember some of what they shared with you about them.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us all with the gift of this earthly life and has given to our brother/sister N, his/her span of years, gifts and values.

God our Father, we thank you now for all his/her life, for every memory of love and joy, for every good deed done by him/her and every sorrow shared with us.

We thank you for his/her life and for his/her death, we thank you for the rest in Christ he/she now enjoys, we thank you for giving him/her to us,

we thank you for the glory we shall share together.

Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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If you didn't get a chance to say goodbye, then do so now.
In God's loving providence it is never too late.

N. we didn't get a chance to meet again and say our goodbyes. There are things I would have said which I say to you now...

Above all I want to thank you for being part of my life and I will miss you. Until we meet again.

Dear God,
thank you for N,
and for all that he/she meant to me and to others.
I really wanted to say goodbye.
Help me to know you are there,
holding all my hopes,
holding all those I love, especially N,
and holding me this day too.
Be close to us all this day with your peace and hope.
Amen.

Now say quietly:

Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, 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
But deliver us from evil
Amen

Other Prayers

God our Father, your power brings us to birth,
Your providence guides our lives,
and by Your command we return to dust.
Lord, those who die still live in Your presence,
their lives change but do not end.
I pray in hope for my family, relatives and friends,
and for all the dead known to You alone.
In company with Christ, Who died and now lives,
may they rejoice in Your kingdom,
where all our tears are wiped away.
Unite us together again in one family,
to sing Your praise forever and ever. Amen.

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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 those they have loved and lost.
Amen.

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Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed are thou amongst 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

These prayers are used at the end of the funeral service as the person is entrusted to God's care:

Saints of God, come to his/her aid!
Hasten to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!

R: 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 bosom of Abraham. **R**

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. **R**

Pause for silent prayer.

A gesture, for example, signing your forehead with the sign of the cross, may accompany the following words.

**Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.
May he/she rest in peace. Amen.**

**May his/her soul
and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen**

A final blessing and farewell.

**May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.**



**St Michael the Archangel
defend us from all evil and lead us, by God's Grace,
through the darkness of death into the light of God's love**

Don't forget it's good to talk to others if you need support
or need help at this time or later.

You can contact us here in the parish by ringing:

0131 665 2137 or emailing:

pplorettoandstmichael@gmail.com

or you can ring Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland

0845 600 2227

Or email: support@crusescotland.org.ukat