

Praying for the Departed: 2 resources for home use

Order 1 is a service that can be used when unable to attend the funeral of someone you knew pages 1 to 4



Order 2 is an Office of Commendation from *Celebrating Common Prayer* which is being used at 3pm every Friday to pray for those who have died in the past week - for whatever reason pages 5-8



Order 1: a service that can be used when unable to attend the funeral of someone you knew produced by the Church of England



A time of Reflection at home on the day of a funeral you cannot attend

It's so difficult when you can't go to a funeral, whether for family, friend or neighbour. Many are facing this in the current crisis, so this short reflection has been specially written by a vicar for you to do at home, alone or with those who share your home. You might ask others to take part at the same time from their home.

When this time of social distancing is over, there may well be an opportunity to meet together at a special time of remembering and thankfulness. Your memories now can be part of that experience when the time comes.

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38-39

Before you find a place to sit quietly, you might like to 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. Think about those who are at the funeral and pray for them.

*[Where it says 'N' in a prayer, just say the name of your person].
You might like to light a candle. Then pray:*

O God, who brought us to birth
and in whose arms we die:
in our grief and shock contain and comfort us,
embrace us with your love
give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Read Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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?*



*Now give thanks to God for their life
and ask for strength for yourself and those who grieve.*

Dear God, thank you for N,
and for all that *he/she* meant to me and to others.
I so 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.

Heavenly Father,
you have not made us for darkness and death,
but for life with you for ever.
Without you we have nothing to hope for;
with you we have nothing to fear.
Speak to us now your words of eternal life.
Lift us to the light and peace of your presence, and set the glory of your love before us today:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
Your Kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are yours.
Now and for ever. Amen.

Ending *Now pray this prayer, which is used at the end of the funeral service to say goodbye.*

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory and claiming his promises,
we entrust N to your mercy
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. Amen.

Now to the One who is able to keep us from falling
and set us in the presence of the divine glory,
to the only God our Saviour
be glory and majesty, dominion and praise,
now and for ever. Amen.

To finish you might like to light a candle online at
www.churchofengland.org/funeral-candle

Help and support are available for you during this time, and in the future. Contact us. Find resources here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/after-funeral>

Contact us:

The Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, New Marston, Oxford

www.stmichaelandallangelsnewmarston.org.uk

Parish email: stmichaelsnewmarston@gmail.com

Phone: Voicemail: 01865 434340

Order 2 is an Office of Commendation from *Celebrating Common Prayer* which is being used at 3pm every Friday to pray for those who have died in the past week



This service may be used on hearing the news of a death, or on the day of the funeral by those not able to be present or on any suitable occasion. The Vicar is using this at 3 pm every Friday to mark the passing of those who have died each week from the Coronavirus Pandemic and other causes. 3 pm is the time at which the Gospel writers place the death and burial of Jesus.

We shall not all die

But we shall be changed

The trumpet shall sound and dead will rise immortal

And we shall be changed

The perishable may be clothed with the imperishable

and the mortal must be clothed with immortality

We shall not all die

But we shall be changed

A suitable Hymn may be sung at this point or the Kontakion for the Departed recited:

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but life everlasting.
Thou only art immortal,
the Creator and Maker of man;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth,
and unto earth shall we return;
for so thou didst ordain
when thou createdst me, saying:
'Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.'
All we go down to the dust,
and, weeping o'er the grave we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but life everlasting.

READING(s) from Scripture

For example: Isaiah 25: 6-9; Hosea 6: 1-3; John 11: 21-17; John 14: 1-3; Romans 6: 3-9; Philipians 1: 20-26; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Memories of the Departed may be included here, ending with :

O God, who brought us to birth
and in whose arms we die:
in our grief and shock contain and comfort us,
embrace us with your love
give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

CANTICLE A song of the Holy City: *Vidi caelum novum*

**I saw the holy city
coming down out of heaven from God**

I saw a new heaven and a new earth ♦
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away
and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem
coming down out of heaven from God ♦
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice from the throne saying, ♦
'Behold, the dwelling of God is among mortals.

'He will dwell with them and they shall be his peoples, ♦
and God himself will be with them.

'He will wipe every tear from their eyes, ♦
and death shall be no more.

'Neither shall there be mourning,
nor crying, nor pain any more, ♦
for the former things have passed away.'

And the One who sat upon the throne said, ♦
'Behold, I make all things new.'



Revelation 21.1-5a

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb ♦
be blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**I saw the holy city
coming down out of heaven from God.**

Prayers

We commend *N* to you, O God, as *s/he/they* journey(s) beyond our sight.

Heavenly Father,
into whose hands Jesus Christ commended his spirit at the last hour:
into those same hands we now commend your servant (s) *NN*
that death may be for *her/him/them*
the gate to life and to eternal fellowship with you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
Your Kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are yours.
Now and for ever. **Amen.**

Go forth upon your journey from this world, O Christian soul(s);
in the name of God the Father who created you. **Amen.**

In the name of Jesus Christ who suffered for you. **Amen.**

In the name of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you. **Amen.**

In communion with the blessed Virgin Mary, (Saint *N.*) and all the saints;
with the angels and archangels and all the heavenly host. **Amen.**

May your portion this day be in peace and your dwelling in the city of God. **Amen.**

AND/OR

N our companion in faith and *brother/sister* in Christ,
we entrust you to God who created you.

May you return to the Most High who formed you from the dust of the earth.

May the angels and saints come to meet you as you go forth from this life.

May Christ, who was crucified for you, take you into his Kingdom.

May Christ the Good Shepherd give you a place within his flock.

May Christ forgive you your sins and keep you among his people.

May you see your Redeemer face to face
and delight in the vision of God for ever. **Amen.**

AND/OR

N, N may Christ give you
rest in the land of the living
and open for you the gates
of paradise;
may he receive you as a
citizen of the Kingdom,
and grant you forgiveness of
your sins:
for you were his friend.



The Blessing

We remember the living and the departed.

PRAYER of a Jewish Mourner - Kaddish

The Kaddish is an affirmation of faith in the face of death:

Magnified and sanctified be the great name of God
in the world which he created according to his will.
May he establish his Kingdom in your life and in your days,
and in the lifetime of all his people:

quickly and speedily may it come; and let us say Amen!

Blessed be God for ever!

Blessed, praised and glorified,
exalted, extolled and honoured,
magnified and lauded be the name of the Holy One;
Blessed be God!

Though he be high above all the blessings and hymns,
praises and consolations,
which are uttered in the world; and let us say Amen!

Blessed be God for ever!

May there be abundant peace from heaven
and life for us and for all people; let us say Amen!

Blessed be God for ever!

OR

Now to the One who is able to keep us from falling
and set us in the presence of the divine glory,
to the only God our Saviour
be glory and majesty, dominion and praise,
now and for ever. Amen.

