

EVENING PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE



(Place a candle in front of the picture, memory card or list of names of those in your family you wish to remember and take a moment of silence before you begin)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**

Come into our presence this night, O God, as we remember our loved ones.

Come to us with light.

Come into our presence this night, O God, as we give thanks for the lives of our loved ones who are now in your loving care.

Come to us with peace.

Come into our presence this night, O God, as we place all our memories before you, knowing that we will be reunited one day in your heavenly home.

Come to us with hope.

Merciful God, you are the Lord of the living and the dead. You give to each one of us the precious gift of memory. When we remember them, those have died live again our hearts.

Send your Holy Spirit to give us consolation in our loneliness and hope in the eternal life that you promised us through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

Loving and merciful God, by raising your son Jesus from the dead you opened the gates of heaven to all who believe in you. Listen to us now as we turn to you in prayer and remember those who have died.

1. For all the people we know and love who have died: that they may reach the safety of God's eternal home.

Lord hear us.

2. For all who have died during this pandemic, and for the families who experienced the difficulty of a Covid-19 funeral with restrictions: that they may find peace and comfort in your care.

Lord hear us.

3. For all who are sad because someone they love has died: that they may receive the help and support they need.

Lord hear us.

4. For all people who suffer at this time because of old age or illness: that they may have the peace that comes from loving God.

Lord hear us.

(Invite family members to include their own prayer at this time if they wish)

Our Father.....

Lord, give us the certainty that beyond death there is a life where broken things are mended and lost things are found; where there is rest for the weary and joy for the sad; and where we will meet again our loved ones. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen.

(You may wish to recite your favourite prayer at this time)

Litany of remembrance

In the rising of the sun and in its going down.

We remember them

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter.

We remember them

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of the summer.

We remember them

In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn.

We remember them

In the beginning of the year and when it ends.

We remember them

When we are lost and sick at heart.

We remember them

When we have joys we yearn to share.

We remember them

So long as we live, they too shall live.

We will remember them

Blessing

Lord, may you support us all day long till the shadows lengthen and evening falls, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done; then in your mercy, Lord, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at last.

J.H. Newman

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Footprints in the Sand (by Mary T. Stevenson)

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes, there were two sets of footprints, other times, there was only one set.
This bothered me, because I noticed that during the most difficult periods of my life,
I could only see one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord

“You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life, there have only been
one set of footprints in the sand.

Why, when I needed you most, were you not there for me?”

The Lord replied, “the times when you have seen only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you”.