

A photograph of a simple wooden cross made of two branches, standing on a rocky shore. The cross is positioned in the center-left of the frame. To the left, there are large, dark green leaves of a tree, partially obscuring the cross. The background shows a calm body of water, likely a lake or bay, with some reeds and small trees in the distance. The sky is a pale, clear blue. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

**Prayer
of the Faithful**

**St. Patrick's Church
Monkstown, Co. Dublin**

Prayer of the Faithful

Eighteen different sets of Prayer of the Faithful are provided in the document below. These are offered only as a guide and families are free to compose their own and consult with the priest before the Mass.

Each page of the document below has one set of Prayers on it. Prayers are indexed below. For example, Prayers appropriate for a child or youth who has died through illness are set no -1-, those appropriate for a child or youth who has died tragically are set- -2-, etc. Please bear this in mind when printing from the document.

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- 1 - Let the Little Ones Come to Me (1)

A child or youth who died through illness

Priest: Let us pray to God with the confidence and trust of a child.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That Christ, who loves the little ones,
may welcome N., into the joy and peace of God's kingdom.
Lord, hear us.
- That N's sufferings may be a source of blessings for us.
Lord, hear us.
- That from his (her) place in heaven, he (she) may intercede for us.
Lord, hear us.
- For his (her) parents, family, and friends:
that the Lord may comfort them in their loss.
Lord, hear us.
- For all those who loved and cared for N., during his (her) illness.
Lord, hear us.
- That we may be convinced that if we share Christ's sufferings in this life,
we will share his glory in the next.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of mercy, we commend our (little) brother (sister) N., to your care.
Give him (her) a place of honour in your kingdom
for he (she) shared in the cross of your Son on earth.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-2 - Let the Little Ones Come to Me (2)

A child or youth who died tragically

Priest: Let us now pray with confidence to Christ who showed in word and deed that the little ones are precious to him.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That Christ may welcome N., into that kingdom which he said belongs especially to the little ones.
Lord, hear us.
- As a child N., thirsted for life here on earth; may she (he) now enjoy the fullness of life in heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- For the parents of N.,: that they may be consoled in the knowledge that as they cherished her (him) in life, God will cherish her (him) in death. Lord, hear us.
- That we may treasure the beautiful but fragile gift of life which God has given us.
Lord, hear us.
- For our deceased relatives and friends.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of power and love, in Christ you have shown us how much you love the little ones. Write the name of N., on the palm of your hand, and grant her (him) a place of honour in your kingdom of light and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-3 - Unfailing Love

A parent

Priest: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Therefore, let us pray to him with confidence.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That God may reward N., for all the love that she (he) shared.
Lord, hear us.
- That in his boundless mercy God may blot out the sins she (he) committed through human weakness.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may visit N's family and friends with comfort and peace.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may bless this community with an increase of hope and love.
Lord, hear us.
- That our departed relatives and friends may be freed from every shadow of death, and take their place in the new creation.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

O God, you made us for yourself, and our hearts will never rest until they rest in you. Grant that amidst the uncertainties of this changing world, our hearts may be set on our eternal home where true joys are to be found.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-4 - A Time of Ripening

An elderly person (1)

Priest: If we trust in God, he will take care of us in life and in death. Let us pray with confidence to him in our hour of need.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- Now that N's labours and sufferings are over,
may God bring her (him) to a place of light, happiness and peace.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may pardon her (his) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may comfort us who mourn for N.,
and help us to comfort one another.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may reward those who cared for N., in her (his) old age.
Lord, hear us.
- That her (his) memory may live on among us.
Lord, hear us.
- That all the dead, especially our relatives and friends, may enjoy eternal life.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

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.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-5 - Mission Accomplished

Death of an elderly person (2)

Priest: For those who live a good life, the hour of death is transformed into an hour of glory, because God gives them the crown of eternal life.

Let us pray to God in our hour of loss.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- N., has finally reached the shore of eternity;
may he (she) enjoy rest from all his (her) labours.
Lord, hear us.
- N., fought the good fight; he (she) finished the race; may he (she) now receive the crown of eternal glory Christ won for us with his death and resurrection.
Lord, hear us.
- That the hardships and sufferings he (she) endured may,
through the mercy of God, gain him (her) forgiveness for his (her) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who grieve for him (her): that their sorrow may be changed into joy.
Lord, hear us.
- For all those who cared for N., in his (her) old age:
that their kindness and patience may be rewarded.
Lord, hear us.
- That all who knew N., may draw inspiration from his (her) life.
Lord, hear us.

Priest: Lord, may you support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen, and evening fails, 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. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-6- Sharing His Sufferings

Someone who suffered a lot

Priest: Through Christ we have become children of God and heirs to the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, let us pray to God with confidence in this hour of sorrow.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- N., shared the bitterness of Christ's sufferings on earth; may she (he) share his glory in heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- That she (he) may know the sweetness of God's mercy.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn N's death:
that they may be comforted by the knowledge that after all her (his) pain,
she (he) is now at peace.
Lord, hear us.
- For all who suffer: that they may bear their pain with patience and fortitude.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who care for the sick and suffering:
that they may have kind hearts and gentle hands.
Lord, hear us.
- For all here present: that we may remember that what we suffer in this life
can never be compared to the glory which is waiting for us in the next.
Lord, hear us.

Priest: 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; where all that we have loved and willed of good exists, and where we will meet again our loved ones. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-7- A Green Tree Falls

Sudden death

Priest:

As we stand before the mystery of death, Christ stands among us and says to us, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.' Therefore, let us place our prayers before him, confident that he will hear them.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That N., whose life was cut short by death,
may enter into the fullness of that life Christ won for us by his own death.
Lord, hear us.
- As death surprised her (him) with its suddenness,
may God now surprise her (him) with his kindness and mercy.
Lord, hear us.
- That her (his) family may find comfort through faith in God
and the support of the community.
Lord, hear us.
- For ourselves: that we may continue our earthly journey,
steadfast in faith and joyful in hope.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may grant eternal life to all those
whom death has taken away from us.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of power and love, you made us not for death but for eternal life. Let the splendour of Christ's resurrection scatter the shadows of death, and cause the radiance of eternity to shine on us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

- 8 - When the Lights Go Out

Tragic death (1)

Priest: God brought his Son through the darkness of Calvary to the glory of Easter. We are confident that he will bring us too through the darkness of death to his kingdom of light. Let us now turn to him with our prayers.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That Christ, to whom N., was united in baptism, may give him (her) a share in his glory in heaven.
Lord, hear us
- As death surprised N., with its suddenness, may Christ now surprise him (her) with his mercy and kindness.
Lord, hear us
- For the family, relatives, and friends of N.,: that they may find strength through faith in God and the support of the community.
Lord, hear us
- For ourselves: that our trust in God and in his love for us may never waver. Lord, hear us
- For all those who died, especially those who were dear to us.
Lord, hear us

Priest: God of love and mercy, 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; where all that we have loved and willed of good exists, and where we will meet again our loved ones.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Out of the Depths We Cry

Tragic death (2)

Priest:

God is on our side. Therefore, let us pray to him with confidence in our hour of need.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That N., whose life was cut short by tragedy, may now enter into the fullness of that life Christ won for us with his death. Lord, hear us.
- That God's mercy may shine warmly on her (him), forgiving all her (his) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- For N's family, relatives, and friends:
that the Lord may keep their hearts and minds in his love and peace.
Lord, hear us.
- For ourselves: that in the midst of the trials and uncertainties of life,
our trust in God may remain firm.
Lord, hear us.
- For our departed relatives and friends: that freed from every shadow of death, they may take their place in the new creation where all tears are wiped away. Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of power and love, you made us not for death but for eternal life.
Let the splendour of Christ's resurrection scatter the shadows of death,
and cause the radiance of eternity to shine on us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-10 - The Great Loss

When there is a great sense of loss

Priest:

Christ is the Good Shepherd who gave his life to save his sheep.
In our loss, let us turn to him, and with confidence make our needs known to him.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- N., believed in Christ, the Good Shepherd;
may he (she) now enjoy the fullness of eternal life in the kingdom of heaven. Lord,
hear us.
- That the Lord may grant him (her) forgiveness for his (her) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- That those who grieve over his (her) loss may be comforted
by the knowledge that the Lord will take care of him (her).
Lord, hear us.
- For all the faithful departed, especially our relatives and friends:
that they may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who do not follow Christ
because they do not hear his voice or know him.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

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; where all that we have loved and willed of good exists, and where we will meet again our loved ones.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-11- Journey to the Promised Land

Priest:

We are the new people of God.

With Christ as our leader we are journeying towards the promised land of heaven.

Let us pray for N., for ourselves, and for others.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That N., who began his (her) spiritual journey at baptism, may reach its goal in the kingdom of heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- N., was nourished with the bread of the Eucharist; may he (she) now enjoy the banquet of eternal life.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn for N. that they may be comforted by the faith that he (she) has gone to God, the destination of life's journey.
Lord, hear us.
- For all here present: that we may receive an increase of faith in God and in our heavenly destiny.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who have no faith.
Lord, hear us.
- That in his great mercy, God may bring all the dead into the promised land of heaven.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

O God, may the radiance of your glory light up our hearts, and bring us safely through the shadows of this world until we reach our homeland of everlasting light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-12- The Story of a Life

Priest:

Through the death and resurrection of his Son,
God has given us victory over sin and death.
He will not refuse us anything we ask of him in faith.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- Now that N., has come to the end of her (his) earthly journey,
may Christ give her (him) a place at the banquet of the kingdom of heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- That Christ in his mercy may blot out all her (his) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn N's death: that they may find consolation
through faith in God and the support of other people.
Lord, hear us.
- That our faith may enable us to see Christ as our companion on the road of life,
a road that leads to the glory of God's kingdom.
Lord, hear us.
- For all who are crushed by failure and disappointment.
Lord, hear us.
- For all who departed from this life believing in God:
that they may find light, happiness, and peace in his kingdom.
Lord, hear us.

Priest: Lord, it is from you we come when we enter this world, and it is to you we go
when we leave it. In your unfailing mercy, guard our coming and our going, so that
nothing in life or death may separate us from you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-13- The Seed Must Die

Priest:

Those who die with Christ will live with him forever in heaven.
Comforted by this faith, let us make our prayers to him.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- N., died with Christ in baptism;
may she (he) now share his risen life in heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- That she (he) may have forgiveness for her (his) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- That she (he) may reap a rich harvest
from her (his) acts of self-denial and generosity.
Lord, hear us.
- That Christ, who himself knew the anguish of death,
may comfort those who mourn for N.,
Lord, hear us.
- For all those who have no hope of a life beyond the grave:
that they too may believe the Good News of eternal life.
Lord, hear us.
- For our deceased relatives and friends, and for all the faithful departed:
that God may bring them into the light of his presence.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of power and love, you made us not for death but for eternal life. Let the splendour of Christ's resurrection scatter the shadows of death, and cause the radiance of eternity to shine on us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-14- Going Home

Priest:

Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to God except through him. Let us pray with confidence through him who shared our earthly exile in order to bring us to our heavenly home.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- N., has departed her (his) earthly home;
may she (he) reach the joy and peace of God's house.
Lord, hear us.
- That Christ may have mercy on her (him), forgive her (his) sins,
and bring her (him) to everlasting life.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn for her (him): that they may be comforted
by the hope that she (he) has gone to her (his) everlasting home.
Lord, hear us.
- For all here present: that nothing in this life
may cause us to forget our eternal home.
Lord, hear us.
- For our deceased relatives and friends:
that the Lord may bring them into the light of his presence.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

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.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-15- Parting Time

Priest:

It is from God we come when we enter this world, and it is to him we go when we leave it. Comforted by this faith, let us pray to him with confidence.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That N., who has departed this world
may reach the safety of God's eternal kingdom.
Lord, hear us.
- That God in his boundless mercy
may blot out the sins she (he) committed through human weakness.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn for N.,:
that the Lord may turn their sorrow into joy.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may grant eternal life to all those whom we loved in this life
but whom death has taken from us.
Lord, hear us.
- That we may treasure our friends in life and in death.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of mercy, stretch forth your hand, rescue our sister (brother) from the power of death, and bring her (him) to a place of refreshment, light, and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-16- An Invincible Spring

Priest:

Christ is the resurrection and the life. Let us pray that our faith may not fail us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That N., may enjoy the full flowering of that life Christ shared with her (him) in baptism.
Lord, hear us.
- That Christ call our sister (brother) from this land of shadows to the land of eternal light.
Lord, hear us.
- That Christ may free her (him) from the bonds of her (his) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- Christ comforted Martha and Mary;
may he comfort us who mourn for N.,
Lord, hear us.
- For our deceased relatives and friends, and for all the faithful departed.
Lord, hear us.
- For those without faith: that they too may hear the words of Christ and believe.
Lord, hear us.
- We might now wish to make a prayer of our own. (Pause).

Priest:

All-powerful God, you sent your Son into our world to plant within our hearts the hope of eternal life. Guard that hope with your grace, and bring it to fulfilment in the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-17- Treasure in Earthen Vessels

Priest:

We are God's children. As such we have a divine dignity which death cannot touch. In this confidence let us place our prayers before God.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- Now that the vessel of N's body lies in death, may God in his love bring his soul home to himself.
Lord, hear us.
- That he (she) may be released from his (her) sins, and blessed with eternal light and peace.
Lord, hear us.
- For the family, relatives, and friends of N.,: that they may find consolation in their faith and strength in the support of the community.
Lord, hear us.
- For all here present: that we may never doubt the treasure we carry in earthen vessels.
Lord, hear us.
- For all the dead whose faith is known to God alone.
Lord, hear us.
- We now have an opportunity to make a prayer of our own. (Pause).

Priest:

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; where all that we have loved and willed of good exists, and where we will meet again our loved ones.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-18- Sunrise, Sunset

Priest:

God is the beginning and the end of our earthly journey. He is also our unfailing companion during it. Let us place our prayers before him with confidence.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That God may welcome N., whose earthly pilgrimage is ended, into his kingdom of light and peace.
Lord, hear us.
- That the light of God's mercy may banish the darkness of his (her) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn for him (her):
that God may fill them with hope through believing.
Lord, hear us.
- For ourselves: that we may continue our earthly journey,
steadfast in faith and joyful in hope.
Lord, hear us.
- For our departed relatives and friends: that freed from every shadow of death, they
may take their place in the new creation.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

Lord, it is from you we come when we enter this world, and it is to you we go when we leave it. In your unfailing mercy, guard our coming and our going, so that nothing in life or death may separate us from you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.