



Prayers for the Sick and Housebound

Taking Communion to Sick or Housebound People

“Communion” is an experience of deep unity between people. “Holy Communion” unites us to each other as members of the Church, which is also called the Mystical Body of Christ, and - in a way we shall never fully understand - with Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. When you take Holy Communion to someone at home you bring the Lord Jesus with you, but you also bring that person closer to the parish family, on whose behalf you carry out this ministry. On a Sunday those you visit will know you have come straight from the parish Mass; they will know the people at the Mass will be praying for them and for all the sick and housebound. This gives a special meaning to the Lord’s Day, particularly for those who cannot join the rest of the community at Mass.

Your ministry reminds the parish family that Holy Communion means so much to those who are unable to attend Mass. People who are sick are close to Christ in His passion and suffering, so He is very close to them, too. They join in His prayer and concern for the world and in His love for the Father. They are also called to pray for the community of believers who meet every Sunday at Mass.

This booklet has grown out of one Father Andrew Rowlands composed for the Ministers of Communion in the parish of Saint Michael and All Angels, Kirkby. That booklet has been an excellent resource for Ministers of Communion in the hospitals on the Fazakerley site. Tattered copies suggested it was time to replace it, but we have decided to add prayers to use when you take Viaticum [Communion] to people who will not be with us on earth much longer. There are also some simple but powerful prayers you can use when someone has died.

Father Stephen Cooper & Monsignor Peter Fleetwood

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A. Holy Communion for Sick or Housebound People

A Greeting

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

Response Amen.

Minister **Peace to this house, and all who live here.**

Response And with your spirit.

The Rite of Penance

Minister **We have gathered in the presence of Christ
to receive Him in Holy Communion.**

**Let us prepare ourselves by asking Him
to forgive our sins.**

Form 1

All say I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Minister **May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.**

Response Amen.

Form 2

Minister **Lord Jesus, you healed the sick.
Lord, have mercy.**

Response Lord, have mercy.

Minister **Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners.
Christ, have mercy.**

Response Christ, have mercy.

Minister **Lord Jesus, you give us yourself
to heal us and bring us strength.
Lord, have mercy.**

Response Lord, have mercy.

Minister **May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.**

Response Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

You may wish to use one of these readings, the Gospel of the day or some other suitable reading from Scripture.

1 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life.
No-one can come to the Father except through me".

The Gospel of the Lord.

2 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said,
"I myself am the living bread come down from heaven.
If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever;
the bread I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world".

The Gospel of the Lord.

3 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said,
“Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live forever”.

The Gospel of the Lord.

This may be an opportunity for spending some time in silence, for reflecting on the Gospel or asking the person you are visiting whether he or she would like to pray for someone in particular or for any other intention.

Holy Communion

Minister **At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:**

All 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;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Minister Behold the Lamb of God.
Behold Him who takes away
the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called
to the supper of the Lamb.

Response Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word,
and my soul shall be healed.

Minister The Body of Christ

Response Amen

O Sacrament most Holy. O Sacrament Divine.
All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.

Minister Let us pray.
God our Father,
we thank you for the nourishing food
of your Son's Body and Blood
that we receive in this sacrament.
May it bring us
health and strength in this life
and lead us one day to eternal life in heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response Amen.

Asking for God's Blessing

Minister May the Lord bless us,
keep us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.

Response Amen.

B. When someone is dying...

**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 on you, go forth, faithful Christian.**

**May you live in peace this day,
may your home be with God in Sion,
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God,
with Joseph, and all the angels and saints.**

My brother (sister) in faith,

**I entrust you to God who created you. May you return to
the one who formed you from the dust of this earth.**

**Mary 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.**

**May Christ, the Son of God, who died for you,
take you into His kingdom.**

**May Christ, the Good Shepherd,
give you a place within His flock.**

May He forgive your sins and keep you among His people.

**May you see your Redeemer face to face
and enjoy the sight of God for ever.**

Amen.

**Accept your servant, Lord, into the place of salvation for
which he (she) hopes.**

Amen.

Free your servant, Lord, from every pain and suffering.

Amen.

**Free your servant, Lord, through Jesus our Saviour, who
suffered death for us and gave us eternal life.**

Amen.

**Lord, Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world,
we commend your servant N. to you
and pray for him (her).**

**In mercy you came to earth for his (her) sake:
accept him (her) into the joy of your Kingdom.
Though he (she) has failed and sinned, he (she) has not
denied the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
but has believed and has worshipped God, the Creator:
accept him (her) into the joy of your kingdom.**

The family may be glad to make the sign of the Cross on the forehead of their dying relative or friend. This is what we do for people being baptised, and it is our way of entrusting someone - even ourselves - to God, who loves and cares for each of us. It may be appropriate, especially for a family with strong faith, to pray the Hail, Holy Queen, or a decade of the Rosary.

C. When someone has died

Introduction

**In this moment of sorrow the Lord is here among us.
He comforts us with this promise:
Blessed are those who mourn; they shall be comforted.**

Prayer

**Listen to our prayers, Lord, as we humbly beg your mercy,
that the soul of your servant N.,
whom you have called from this life,
may be brought by you to a place of peace and light,
and so be enabled to share the life of all your saints.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Readings from Scripture

From Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians (Phil 3, 20-21)

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of His glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which He can subdue the whole universe.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

From Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians (Col 3,3-4)

You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

From Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans (Rom 6,8-9)

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

Prayer of Commendation

Saints of God, come to his (her) aid!

Come to meet him (her), angels of the Lord!

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 Abraham's side.

Receive his (her) soul

and present him (her) to God the Most High

Give him (her) eternal rest, O Lord,

and may your light shine on him (her) for ever.

Receive his (her) soul

and present him (her) to God the Most High

Let us pray

God of mercy, hear our prayers and be merciful to your son (daughter) N., whom you have called from this life. Welcome him (her) into the company of your saints, in the kingdom of light and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Once again, those present may be glad to make the sign of the Cross on the forehead of the person who has died. If it seems appropriate to pray a decade of the Rosary, it is best to choose the First Glorious Mystery, the Resurrection.

The Art of Dying Well

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has opened an internet web site to help us all prepare for death:

www.artofdyingwell.org

In our culture it is rare to talk about death. There is still the temptation to think that when the priest appears at someone's hospital bed death is not far behind. For a believer there is nothing to fear. This resource makes it easier to think about it and to talk about important things that are often forgotten - not only practical things but also spiritual preparation. It is everyone's right to prepare spiritually for dying. There are prayer-cards that you should be able to find in every parish, and all the chaplaincy team and Ministers of Communion at our hospitals have some.

The Mysteries of the Rosary

The Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles
4. The Assumption of Our Blessed Lady into Heaven
5. The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven

The Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation in the Temple
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

The Luminous Mysteries

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom & the Call to Repentance
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

*Front cover picture: chapel fresco in the Pontifical Irish College
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