

Prayers of the Faithful for Funerals and All Souls Day

Eleven sets for funeral and memorial Masses and five sets for All Souls Day (November 2).

How to use: the priest introduces and concludes the Universal Prayer; a deacon, cantor or reader announces the intentions; the people respond. Replace [Name] or N. with the name of the person. Choose four to six intentions.

Funeral and Requiem Mass

1. General funeral intercessions

Response after each petition: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For [Name], that God may forgive every sin, bring healing to all that was broken, and welcome our loved one into the joy of his presence. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
2. For all who have died, especially those who have no one to remember them in prayer, that they may find rest in the mercy of Christ. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
3. For the family and friends of [Name], that God may sustain them through this loss and surround them with faithful, patient love. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For the Church, that we may care tenderly for the dying, accompany the bereaved and bear witness to the hope of the Resurrection. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For people suffering through war, poverty or loneliness, that they may receive protection, companionship and the help they need. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
6. For everyone gathered here, that the remembrance of [Name] may deepen our gratitude for life and our willingness to love one another. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

2. Short funeral intercessions

Use this shorter set when the parish asks for brief intentions. **Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For [Name], that Christ may receive our loved one into his peace. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
2. For everyone grieving today, that God may give comfort and strength. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
3. For the Church and all who serve the sick and dying, that their care may bring hope. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For all who suffer, that they may find kindness, justice and relief. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For all who have died and for all of us who remember them, that God's mercy may unite us in everlasting life. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

3. For the funeral of a mother

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For [Name], our mother, that the God who knows her whole life may receive her with mercy and grant her eternal rest. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
2. For her children and everyone who knew her care, that gratitude for the love they received may remain beside them in their grief. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

3. For families carrying painful memories or unfinished conversations, that God's tenderness may open a way toward forgiveness and peace. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For mothers who are sick, isolated or anxious for their children, that they may receive practical help and loving support. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For the Church and this community, that we may welcome those who feel alone and remember the bereaved after this day has passed. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
6. For all our departed loved ones, that they may share in the life Christ promises. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

4. For the funeral of a father

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For [Name], our father, that God may receive him in mercy, forgive his failings and bring him into everlasting peace. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
2. For his children and family, that the memories they cherish may bring comfort, and that they may find strength for the days ahead. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
3. For families struggling with separation, regret or conflict, that God's grace may help them seek reconciliation and care for one another. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For fathers facing illness, unemployment or loneliness, that they may find encouragement and the support they need. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For the Church and all entrusted with responsibility for others, that they may serve with humility and compassion. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
6. For all who have died, that Christ may gather them into his kingdom. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

5. For a grandmother, grandfather or older relative

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For [Name], that God may receive our loved one into the peace for which we pray. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
2. For each generation of this family, that the good entrusted to us may continue in acts of patience, generosity and faith. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
3. For children meeting the mystery of death, that trusted adults may listen to their questions and help them feel secure and loved. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For older people who live alone or feel forgotten, that our communities may recognize their dignity and make time for their company. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For carers, parish visitors and all who supported [Name], that God may bless their kindness and give rest to those who are weary. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

6. For our relatives and friends who have died, that the Lord may welcome them into everlasting life. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

6. For the funeral of a husband or wife

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For [Name], that Christ may receive our beloved husband or wife with mercy and bring our loved one into his lasting peace. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
2. For [Spouse's name], that God may be close in the unfamiliar silence of loss and send companions who will remain through the months ahead. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
3. For their children, relatives and friends, that they may support one another with gentleness and make room for each person's grief. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For all widows and widowers, especially those facing financial hardship or loneliness, that they may find friendship and practical assistance. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For married couples and families in our parish, that they may cherish one another and respond generously to those who need their care. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
6. For all who have died, that God may grant them rest and bring us together in the fullness of his kingdom. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

7. After a sudden or unexpected death

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For [Name], whose death has come with such sorrow, that God may receive our loved one in mercy and grant eternal peace. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
2. For the family and friends living with shock, unanswered questions or words left unsaid, that they may receive compassion without pressure to hide their pain. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
3. For everyone affected by this death, and for those whose earlier grief has been stirred again, that no one may be left to carry sorrow alone. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For emergency workers, medical staff and all who offered help, that they may find strength, support and peace. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For our parish, that we may be slow to judge, faithful in prayer and generous in caring for this family. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
6. For all who have died, that Christ, who has passed through death, may bring them into life. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

8. After a long illness

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For [Name], that God may receive our loved one into rest after the burdens of illness and grant the fullness of his peace. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
2. For the family, that amid grief and exhaustion they may find time to rest and people willing to help. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
3. For doctors, nurses, hospice workers and carers who accompanied [Name], that God may bless their service and renew their strength. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For people living with serious illness, and for those who keep watch beside them, that they may receive good care and the comfort of loving company. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For the Church, that its ministry to the sick and dying may make the tenderness of Christ present in every home and place of care. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
6. For all our departed relatives and friends, that God may bring them into everlasting joy. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

9. At the funeral of a child

Prepare these intentions closely with the priest, who will choose the appropriate funeral rites.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For [Name], whom we entrust to the loving care of God, that the Lord may hold this beloved child in his peace. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
2. For [Name]'s parents, that God may be near in every moment of grief and surround them with people who will listen and stay. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
3. For brothers, sisters, grandparents and all who love [Name], that their sorrow may be met with tenderness and their questions with patience. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For other families mourning a child, that they may find compassionate support and never feel forgotten. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For the Church and all gathered here, that we may accompany this family through prayer, quiet presence and practical care. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
6. For everyone facing suffering that words cannot explain, that the love of Christ may sustain them one day at a time. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

10. For a parishioner or community member

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For [Name], that the Lord may receive our brother or sister into the company of the saints and grant eternal rest. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

2. For the family and close friends of [Name], that they may find comfort in God's love and the continuing support of this community. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
3. For our parish and all who shared in [Name]'s life, that our gratitude may take shape in faithful service to others. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For those who lead the Church and those who govern our communities, that they may protect the vulnerable and work for peace. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For the sick, the housebound and all who cannot be with us today, that they may know they belong to this community of prayer. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
6. For all our departed parishioners, benefactors and friends, that they may rejoice in the presence of God. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

11. For a memorial or anniversary Mass

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For [Name], whom we remember with love, that God may grant eternal rest and the joy of his presence. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
2. For the family and friends who continue to grieve, that the passing of time may bring support without diminishing the love they carry. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
3. For those approaching an anniversary, birthday or other difficult day after a death, that they may find companionship and a place to speak their loved one's name. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
4. For the Church, that its prayer for the dead may strengthen our hope and inspire us to care for those still suffering. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
5. For all in need of mercy, peace or reconciliation, that they may receive the grace to begin again. **Let us pray to the Lord.**
6. For all who have gone before us and for all who pray for them, that we may be united in Christ's everlasting life. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

All Souls Day

Response: Lord, hear our prayer. (Or: *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.*)

Set 1: Parish Mass on All Souls Day

Priest: Brothers and sisters, on this day of remembrance we turn to the Father, who did not spare his own Son, and we ask him to show mercy to all who have died in Christ.

1. For the Church, that she may never stop praying for the dead and proclaiming the hope of the resurrection to a world afraid of death, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For those who govern nations and cities, that they may protect every human life from its beginning to its natural end, and honor the dignity of the dying, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For all who are grieving today, especially those whose loss is recent, that they may be consoled by the promise of eternal life and by the care of this community, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For doctors, nurses, hospice workers and chaplains who accompany the dying, that they may be strengthened in their compassionate work, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For our parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, friends and benefactors who have died, that God may complete in them the work of grace begun at their baptism, let us pray to the Lord.
6. For all the faithful departed, especially the souls who have no one to pray for them, that they may soon see the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: God of all consolation, hear the prayers of your people. Grant to our departed brothers and sisters the joy of your presence, and to us who mourn the hope of meeting them again. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Set 2: When the names of the dead are read

Use this set when the parish reads the names of those who died since last November. The reader pauses after the fifth intention while the names are read; a bell may be rung or a candle lit after each name.

Priest: With faith in Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life, let us pray for all who have gone before us, and especially for those whose names we remember today.

1. For Pope Leo XIV, our bishop and all the clergy, that they may be faithful ministers of God's mercy to the living and the dead, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For peace among nations, and for all who have died in war, violence or disaster this year, that they may rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For those who are sick and those who are dying tonight, that they may not be afraid and may be surrounded by love, let us pray to the Lord.

4. For families who have buried a loved one this year, that the first holidays and anniversaries without them may be filled with faith and support, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For the members of our parish family who have died since last All Souls Day, whose names we now read before God:

(The names are read. After a short silence the reader continues.)

6. For all whose names are written in our Book of the Dead, and for all the faithful departed, that they may be welcomed into the light of God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: Lord God, you know each of these names and you have called each of them by name since before they were born. Receive them into your kingdom, and comfort all who loved them. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Set 3: Mass in a cemetery or chapel of rest

Priest: Standing among the graves of those we love, let us pray to God, who will raise up on the last day all who sleep in Christ.

1. For the Church, the Body of Christ, that she may honor the bodies of the dead and keep alive the memory of her members, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For all who care for this cemetery and for all who work in funeral ministry, that their service may be done with reverence and kindness, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For those who cannot visit the graves of their loved ones because of distance, illness or exile, that they may know that their prayers reach them in God, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For those buried here who have no family left to remember them, that they may be remembered by God and by this community, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For our own families who rest in this place, that the light of the risen Christ may shine on them for ever, let us pray to the Lord.
6. For all of us who will one day be laid to rest, that we may live and die in the friendship of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: Lord Jesus, by your three days in the tomb you made the grave a place of hope. Grant rest to all who sleep here, and lead us all to the resurrection. You live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Set 4: School or children's Mass

Short sentences that children can read aloud. Older students can add the names of grandparents or friends.

Priest: Jesus loves everyone who has died. Let us ask him to take care of them.

1. For the Pope and for all priests, that they may help us to love Jesus and to pray for others, let us pray to the Lord.

2. For children all over the world who are hungry, sick or afraid, that they may be safe and cared for, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For our grandparents, family members and friends who have died, that they may be happy with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For children who are sad because someone they love has died, that they may feel God's love and the love of their families, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For our school, that we may remember to pray for others every day, let us pray to the Lord.
6. For all the people who have died and have no one to pray for them, that Jesus may bring them home to heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: Loving Father, thank you for everyone who has loved us. Hold them close to you, and help us to live as your children. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Set 5: Short set for a weekday Mass

Priest: Let us pray for the living and the dead.

1. For the Church, that she may be a home where the dead are remembered with hope, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For the world, that all who suffer may find mercy and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For the dying, that they may receive the sacraments and die in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For all who mourn, that they may be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For N. and all the faithful departed, that they may rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: Merciful Father, receive these prayers and grant eternal rest to all the dead. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**