

'By your side...'

A selection of poetry, prose and prayers

Vol 8: Roman Catholic Prayers

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
There is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
Where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
To revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
He is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness,
No evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
With these you give me comfort.
You have prepared a banquet for me

In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
My cup is overflowing.
Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
All the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
For ever and ever.

Amen

A reading from the Gospel of St John (14: 1-3)

Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You trust in God, trust also in me.
In my father's house there are many places to live in;
Otherwise I would have told you.
I am going now to prepare a place for you,
And after I have gone
and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you to myself, so that you may be with me where I am.

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Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

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Roman Catholic Prayers

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Christ Be Beside Me

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, light of my heart.
Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference
Amen.

These prayers may be recited with the dying person, alternating with times of silence.
Sometimes, the same prayer should be repeated many times.
When the dying person cannot take part, those present continue to pray.