

# 21 PRAYERS REGARDING SERIOUS OR TERMINAL ILLNESS

Please note that some of these texts will be part of a book to be published in 2008/2009 by Dominican Publications:  
[www.dominicanpublications.com](http://www.dominicanpublications.com)

The new book will offer resource material such as appears here: for those who are terminally ill, and for people who are caring for those loved ones.

The email address of the author of the texts here is [Nicholas@prayingeachday.org](mailto:Nicholas@prayingeachday.org) but, given that he is terminally himself (arising from cancer of the small bowel), it cannot be certain that you will receive a reply if you write to Brother Nicholas, who is a De La Salle Brother (a Catholic religious order – [www.lasalle.org](http://www.lasalle.org)) living in England.

A website he established on behalf of the Brothers is [www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org) where, under 'Reflect and Pray' is a reflection and prayer specific to each day of the year, usually based on the anniversary of an event, birth, death, discovery, etc. Although designed for use by students in high schools, the set of three books – 'Praying Each Day of the Year' - has appealed to people of all ages, looking as the text does to making the most of our everyday situations.

People are very welcome to use the texts which follow but if anyone wishes to incorporate any in a publication, the usual permission should be sought from the author's email address, and someone will respond to that request.

The 21 prayers are arranged in 4 themes:

- A – Praying for one who is ill
- B – Lord, I know that I am very ill
- C – Closer to dying
- D – Mourning

## A - PRAYING FOR ONE WHO IS ILL

*(these prayers can readily be adapted in their wording for sick people to recite regarding themselves)*

### **A-1**

#### **FRIENDS PRAY FOR SOMEONE WHO IS VERY ILL**

*(reflecting how friends approached Jesus, carrying their sick friend on a stretcher, lowering him down through a hole in the roof – Mk 2:1-12)*

Lord Jesus, we read in the Gospels  
that you spoke individually to many people,  
changing their lives  
as you showed them recognition and acceptance  
and as you brought them healing and wholeness.

We read, too, of how some people  
were such good friends  
of a man who was weak and paralysed,

Mk 2:1-12

that they carried him on his stretcher:  
making their way through the crowds,  
carrying him on to the roof,  
and gently lowering him down,  
so that he could be right in front of you.  
They must have been such good friends to him,  
and others could see  
the tenderness of their love and care  
as well as their extraordinary faith and trust in you, Lord,  
in bringing him into your presence.

And isn't it the very same  
that we are doing today, Lord  
- those of us who love and care for \_\_\_\_\_ -  
as we bring **him/her**, carry **him/her**, in the strength of our love  
into the warmth and light of your presence:  
knowing that you, too,  
are very fond of **him/her**?

We can all but hear you  
calling \_\_\_\_\_ by **his/her** name  
as you are also calling **him/her** your friend,  
and we know that your love never fails.

Is 43:1  
Jn 15:15  
1 Cor 13:8

Lord,  
\_\_\_\_\_ - "the one you love - is ill",  
and those of us who join you  
in loving **him/her** and caring for **him/her**  
ask you to lay your hands on **him/her**  
and transform **his/her** life once again,  
bringing **him/her** the fullness  
of your healing and your life. Amen.

Jn 11:3  
  
Lk 4:40, Mk 5:23  
  
Jn 10:10

*Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC: pgs 36-39 of 'Lord, Teach us to Pray' (Matthew James Publishing)*

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## **A-2** **FOR THOSE WHO ARE CHRONICALLY ILL**

God our Father,  
we bring before you today  
those who suffer  
from chronic illness or disability  
- those for whom sickness or disability  
profoundly affects their lives.

When they feel diminished,  
remind them that you call them by name  
and hold them  
in the palm of your hand.

Is 43:1

When they feel fragile and broken,  
mould them and heal them,  
that they may more closely resemble  
the image of Jesus,

your Son and our Brother.

When they are reminded  
of different times in the past,  
lead them to grow in the faith  
that you love them today, as they are,  
in the reality of their lives this day.

When they feel uncertain about the future,  
lead them to that perfect love  
which casts out all fear.

1 John 4:18

When situations remind them  
- not of what they *can* do,  
but of what they *cannot* do -  
remind them  
that "love never fails",  
and that, living in your love,  
they will bear your fruit in plenty.

1 Cor 13:8

Jn 15:5.9

May all of us  
- whatever our circumstances -  
never be so taken up with our own concerns  
that we do not see or respond to  
the needs of others.  
May we live with courage  
the different challenges  
that each of us faces. Amen.

*Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC: 25 September from 'Praying Each Day of the Year (Matthew James Publishing)*

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## A-3

### PRAYING FOR HEALING IN BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

Lord Jesus, we read in the gospel  
that you spoke individually to many people  
and said:

"Be cured";	Lk 5:13
"Get up and walk";	Lk 5:24
"What do you want me to do for you?";	Mt 20:32
"Of course I want to cure you: be healed";	Mt 8:3
"Let what you want be done for you";	Mt 9:29
"Receive your sight";	Lk 18:42
"Receive back your hearing";	Mk 7:34
"Young man, arise";	Lk 7:15
"Go, your son will live";	Jn 4:50
"Go, your faith has saved you."	Mk 10:52

Knowing that you are present in our midst,  
we ask you today

to touch each one of us individually  
and bring us your healing  
of body, mind and spirit. Amen.

*Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC: 28 May from Volume 2 of 'Praying Each Day of the Year (Matthew James Publishing)*

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## A-4 STILL BEING A BLESSING FOR OTHERS

God our Father,  
when you look at the smile of \_\_\_\_\_  
you see also the smile of Jesus, your beloved Son,  
who lived amongst us, fully God and fully human.

Jn 1:14

May \_\_\_\_\_ recognise the Risen Lord  
who walks beside **him/her**.

Lk 24:32; cf Ps 56:14

May **he/she** relate with him as **his/her** Friend  
as he offers **him/her** the power of his Resurrection.

Jn 15:15

Phil 3:10

May **he/she** live as a true image of Jesus,  
and be aware that every person is your beloved child.

Rom 8:29

Lk 3:22; Mt 17:5

May **he/she** be a blessing for others  
and touch people in such a way  
that they may discover for themselves  
who Jesus is.

Gen 48:20

Gen 50:21; 1 Sam 10:26

Jn 4:42

And may the Lord Jesus  
continue to look steadily at **him/her** with his tender love  
and touch **him/her** with his healing power. Amen.

Mk 10:21

cf Mt 20:34; Mk 1:41

*Brother Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC*

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## A-5 MAY MY SICK FRIEND BE GRATEFUL FOR MANY BLESSINGS

Loving Father, you have created \_\_\_\_\_  
in your own image and likeness.

Gen 1:27

**He/she** is the work of your hands,  
moulded from the clay of the earth  
and inspired with the breath of your Spirit.

Job 14:15

**He/she** is your work of art, your masterpiece,  
and is made magnificently,  
and I thank you for the wonder of her being.

Gen 2:6-7

Eph 2:10

\_\_\_\_\_ has grown in wisdom

Ps 139:14

Lk 2:52

and in favour with you, Father, and with your people,  
and I ask

that **he/she** may be immensely grateful  
for so many blessings.

cf Lk 17:12

Bless **him/her** this day and always,  
and may nothing ever separate **him/her**

Rom 8:39

from your love. Amen.

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## **B – LORD, I KNOW THAT I AM VERY ILL**

### **B-6**

#### **DRAW GOODNESS, LORD, OUT OF WHAT IS NEGATIVE IN MY LIFE**

Lord Jesus, you overpowered  
the control that sickness had  
by curing people of their illnesses.

Those who were disabled  
were freed to walk again.

You calmed the sea  
and showed that you had control  
even over nature.

You rose to a new way of living  
and showed that not even death  
had power over you.

With your power in our lives,  
everything that happens to us  
can be turned to good.

And so I ask you this day  
to help me to transform my difficulties  
and draw goodness  
out of what is negative in my life,  
knowing that there is nothing  
in life or in death  
that can ever separate me  
from your love. Amen.

*Nicholas Hutchinson – 18 June from 'Praying Each Day of the Year' (Matthew James Publishing)*

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### **B-7**

#### **A PRAYER OF THE OFFERING OF MYSELF**

Lord Jesus,  
you told your friends  
not to worry about the future.

Mt 6:34

You showed them  
how to have the attitude  
of simple trust  
that young children have,  
so that they could place themselves

Mk 10:15

into the caring hands of your Father.  
 And so  
 I ask for the power of your Spirit  
 that I may remain positive  
 throughout all that is ordinary  
 in my daily life.  
 I know that your touch  
 can change people and situations,  
 and so I ask you  
 to join me in offering to our Father  
 not only the good things of this day  
 but also the suffering and sacrifices  
 that I want to offer  
 cheerfully and lovingly,  
 and in a quiet and hidden way.  
 And so may any difficulties  
 and frustration and pain of this day  
 be transformed in your presence  
 for the benefit of other people. Amen.

*Nicholas Hutchinson – 'Praying Each Day', Volume 3 – 1 October (Matthew James Publishing)*

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## **B-8**

### **I KNOW THAT JESUS LOOKS STEADILY AT ME AND LOVES ME**

When I gaze at the heavens, Father, which your fingers have formed, I see the moon that you have set there and the stars that you call by name - yet my own name is written on the palm of your hands.	Ps 8  Ps 147:4 Is 49:16
I realise how small we are in the magnificence of your creation, yet you treasure each of us above all that you have made: making us only a little less than yourself, crowning us with so many good things.	Ps 8
In our world that you love so much, Father, I see the beauty of the flowers of the field and of the birds of the air, and I know that each of us is worth more than hundreds of sparrows.	Jn 3:16 Lk 12:27  Lk 12:7
Help me to appreciate, Father, that you love all that you have made, and enable me to experience deep within that I am precious to you and am loved for who I am.	Wis 11:24  Is 43:1
Show me how to proclaim in my life every day	

that each of us is your work of art and is made magnificently.	Eph 2:10 Ps 139:14
May Jesus open my eyes, Father, that I may see that he looks steadily at me and loves me. He kisses me tenderly and calls me his friend.	Lk 24:31; Jn 9:32 Mk 10:17-22 Lk 15:20 Jn 15:15
Let me experience deep within that you do heal the broken-hearted and you bind up all our wounds. Then, Father, when life is difficult and problems crowd in, lead me to discover that there is no pit so deep that your love is not deeper still. I rejoice that nothing can ever separate me from your love. Amen.	Ps 147:3 Rom 8:39

*Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC*

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## **B-9**

### **REJOICING, FATHER, THAT YOU FORGIVE US OUR WRONGS**

Loving Lord, you tell us in the Bible that whatever wrong we have done you tread down our faults to the bottom of the sea.	Mic 7:19
We know there is no need to keep thinking about what we have done in the past, because you pardon the wrongs we have done, and you delight in showing mercy.	Is 43:18 Mic 7:18
You bind up all our wounds and you renew us by your love.	Ps 147:3 Zeph 3:17
Lord, you love all that you have made, and it is your very nature to love and forgive.	Wis 11:24
Lead us to be generous in accepting and forgiving others in the same way as you accept and forgive us. Amen.	

## **B-10**

### **IN MY REMAINING TIME I REJOICE IN MY HUMANITY AND MY UNIQUENESS**

I thank you, Father,  
for the touch of your hand  
on the clay of the earth  
that formed my body,  
and for the breath of your Spirit  
giving life to my flesh.

I thank you, Father,  
that you so loved our world  
that you sent your Son  
to live fully amongst us:  
Jesus, your Word made flesh,  
whose image you see  
whenever you look at us.

Lead me now to treasure  
what is most deeply human,  
and grow in my remaining time  
as the person  
you call me to be.

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Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC

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## **B-11**

### **PRAYING TO LIVE FULLY DURING THE TIME REMAINING TO ME**

Loving Father,  
I appreciate that until my last breath  
you will continue creating me as your work of art,  
and I know that your fingers can touch nothing  
but to mould it into loveliness.

George MacDonald

I ask forgiveness, Father,  
for times when I have tarnished  
the image and likeness  
and have marred the integrity of the blueprint  
that you have had in mind  
whenever you have thought of me.  
Yes, I acknowledge that I have missed the mark,  
have fallen short, have sinned.



I ask forgiveness, Father,  
for having limited the action of your Holy Spirit,  
resulting in my walking in darkness,  
looking into a glass, a mirror, darkly,  
my diminishing being 'charged with your grandeur',  
my failing to live up to the glory, the brilliance,  
the transfiguration that you have wanted for me.

1 Cor 13:12

I thank you, Father, for restoring the dignity of us all  
in Jesus, your Word made flesh,  
whose image you see whenever you look at us.  
It means much to appreciate  
that he is Risen and walks beside me now,  
and my heartfelt prayer  
is to know Jesus and the power of his Resurrection,  
praying to have the love of Christ overwhelm me.

As children look like their parents,  
may I live in such a way, Father,  
that others can recognise  
that you have given me so much.

I need help to develop those qualities of yours  
which I have inherited from you,  
and I ask that your Spirit enables me  
to live out the qualities of your kingdom:  
being kind and honourable and compassionate,  
healing the broken-hearted and binding up their wounds,  
loving with great generosity,  
and having cheerfulness overflow to others.

I have many people in mind, Father,  
when I ask you to bless  
those who have had good influence on my life:  
some are still alive and others have gone ahead of me  
into the fullness of salvation,  
which I hope to share.

I ask that your peace  
may continue through death.

At that time  
let me hear you call me by name  
and admit me into the fullness of your presence.

I want to make my home with you  
and be surrounded there by many loved ones  
who have died over the years.

Welcome me into your arms  
and embrace me in your healing love  
in that Garden which is Paradise.

*Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC*

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## B-12

### STRENGTHENED WITH THE CROSS

Lord Jesus,  
I sign my heart with the sign of the cross,  
reminding myself  
of your love for each person.  
I ask that I may grow in faithfulness  
as your friend.

I sign my lips with the sign of the cross,  
that I may speak as you would speak.

I sign my hands with the sign of the cross  
asking that you enable me  
to do your work,  
and be your hands  
in our world which you love so much.

I sign my eyes with the sign of your cross  
that I may really see, Lord,  
and be aware  
of all that is around me.

I sign my ears with the sign of your cross  
that I may listen and really hear  
the communication that comes to me  
in different ways  
- from you  
and from the people  
you place into my life.

I sign my shoulders, Lord, with your cross,  
knowing that you call me  
to carry my own cross each day  
and support others  
in the burdens and difficulties  
that they have.

All that I do today  
I set out to do  
in the name of the Father (+)  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Nicholas Hutchinson – 'Praying Each Day of the Year' (September 14) – Matthew James Publishing*

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## C

### CLOSER TO DYING

## C-13

# AWARE OF BEING TERMINALLY ILL, AND BEING 'COMFORTABLE', 'AT EASE' WITH MY CIRCUMSTANCES

God our Father,

as my remaining time grows shorter  
- something that can be said for all of us! –  
may I be of some help to others to face well  
the greatest certainty before us all:  
that death is part of life,  
and a more complete life follows this one.

1 Cor 7:29

After this life we are called  
to fullness of life in your presence.

Considering the flowers of the field  
and the birds of the air,  
I am very thankful that I continue to have  
much joy in my heart,  
much life and vitality and enthusiasm in my spirit,  
and I do seek to laugh amidst my circumstances  
of terminal illness,  
because having Christian hope  
does make me cheerful.

Mt 6:25-34

cf Rom 5:11

Rom 12:12  
2 Cor 8:2

The biblical Book of Proverbs reminds us  
that *'a kindly word makes us glad,  
and worry makes a person's heart heavy'*.

Prov 12:25

Conscious that you lavish your love upon each of us,  
I continue to trust, Father, in your loving care,  
praying to be a more faithful friend  
to you, Father, and to many who love me  
in and through all that happens in my life.

1 Jn 3:1  
cf Ps 131

I pray to remain calm and at peace,  
at ease with myself,  
reconciled with what is happening to me.

Mk 4:39; cf Jn 14:27;  
Jn 20:19

I ask that loved ones and friends  
be 'comfortable', too,  
be as much 'at ease' as possible  
with my circumstances of dying.

I am very grateful, Father,  
to all who have been supporting me,  
loving and encouraging me,  
caring for and blessing me.

People have visited, emailed, helped with jobs,  
written, prayed, and supported in many other ways.  
Faithful friends are life-saving medicine.

Sir 6:16

May my thoughts and choices  
remain positive and life-giving.

It was Gandhi who said  
that "no sacrifice is worth the name unless it is a joy:  
sacrifice and a long face go ill together,"  
and Martin Luther King proclaimed  
that "unearned suffering is redemptive".

I unite myself and commit myself

to standing beside so many brothers and sisters  
who are suffering at this moment in different ways.  
I join many people, Father,  
and commit myself in solidarity with them,  
whilst praying each day  
never to be down-hearted or negative.  
The offering of self is important, Father,  
because difficulties can be transformed  
for the benefit of others.

I can – and often must – ‘fight’ certain things,  
but in a different sense from what many people think.  
I am undergoing experiences  
and am called to benefit, to learn from it all,  
to be a better person,  
and I pray that those around me, too,  
will become even better people  
because of their circumstances and mine.  
I ‘fight’ in the sense of taking to heart such words as these:  
*“Do not fear, greatly beloved; you are safe.  
Be strong and courageous.”*

Dan 10:11ff

The broadcaster, Mary Craig,  
had two children bearing handicaps, and she wrote:  
“Our tragedy is not that we suffer  
but that we waste suffering.  
We lose the opportunity  
to let it grow into compassion”,  
and Thomas Merton remarked  
that “compassion is not learned  
without suffering”.  
I reflect, Father, that in coming to live as one of us,  
Jesus did not seek to explain suffering  
but he did fill it with his presence  
and changed people’s lives,  
as he has done with mine.

When Jesus was praying to you, Father, in the Garden  
he was ‘fighting’ in the sense that he prayed  
that you would remove from him  
his ‘*cup of suffering*’.

He prayed that the cup would be taken from him:  
the cup representing something  
that he would otherwise consume  
(or, rather, would appear to consume him).

He became reconciled  
with what was happening to him  
and ultimately it was “resolutely” that Jesus set out  
on what he realised would be his last journey  
knowing that, in seeing it through,  
the outcome would be his torture and death.  
Jesus *embraced* what was happening to him.  
May I do so with what is happening to me.

Lk 9:51

The practice of ‘*giving thanks in all circumstances*’  
arises from the gradual building up  
of a positive attitude,  
as expressed by Elizabeth Kubler Ross,  
who wrote much about dying:

1 Thess 5:18; Eph 5:20

*“I shall be richer all my life for this sorrow.  
New insights about life have been born.*

*Life is to be lived  
by striking a line through every minus  
and turning it into a plus.  
If agony must be experienced,  
there are those who are ready  
to bear some of the burden.  
When there is suffering, the gift of courage is given.  
Death is not to be feared, any more than is birth.  
When the body ceases to be,  
the spirit emerges, free and unencumbered."*

And so, after I have breathed my last,  
may my eyes open, Father,  
in the place where I will see you face-to-face  
and hear you welcome me by name.  
May I be blessed in hearing you say  
that you are very fond of me:  
blessed, too, in realising  
that I am called to friendship with you.  
There in your kingdom  
of light, happiness and peace,  
may I meet again  
those who brought much love into my life.

Jms 2:23

May the loved ones I leave behind on earth  
gain some consolation and strength from knowing  
that I want my love and care for them  
to continue beyond death  
since I want to be praying for them, Father,  
at your right hand. Amen.

*Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC*

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## **C-14**

### **“BETWEEN NOW AND THE TIME OF MY DEATH”.**

#### ***WHEN MY TIME COMES, FATHER, WELCOME ME INTO YOUR ARMS***

Loving Father,  
I appreciate that until my last breath  
you will continue creating me as your work of art,  
and I am grateful that your fingers can touch nothing  
but to mould it into loveliness.

Eph 2:10

George MacDonald

As children look like their parents,  
I pray that, enabled by your Spirit,  
I may still grow in your likeness, Father,  
in the time that remains to me.  
May your Spirit help me to make the best use  
of all that I have inherited from you,  
and may I resemble you more closely  
in developing further

the qualities with which you have graced me.  
May I be wondrously 'charged with your grandeur',  
and show forth the brilliance, the transfiguration,  
that you have wanted for me.

G.M.Hopkins  
Lk 9:28-36

At the same time, Father, I ask your forgiveness  
for having tarnished the image and likeness  
and marred the integrity of the blueprint  
that you have had in mind  
whenever you have smiled and thought of me.

Gen 1:26

Yes, I acknowledge that I have missed the mark,  
have fallen short, have sinned,  
but it is liberating to know  
that "you cast my sins to the bottom of the sea".

Mic 7:19

I thank you, Father, for restoring the dignity of us all  
in Jesus, your Word made flesh.

Jn 1:14

It touches me deeply when I appreciate  
that he is Risen and walks beside me now,  
and my heartfelt prayer is to know Jesus more fully,  
and to experience in my life  
the power of his Resurrection.

cf Lk 24

Phil 3:10

I have many people in mind, Father,  
when I ask you to bless  
those who have been of good influence on me  
over the years.

cf Rom 14:7-12

Some I have forgotten or never knew;  
many are still alive.

Others have gone ahead of me  
and are now close to you, Father,  
which is where I pray I will go  
when my time comes.

You know that I want to make my home with you  
and, when my moment arrives, loving Father,  
I ask that you will call me by name  
and admit me into the fullness of your presence.

2 Cor 5:9

Is 43:1

Welcome me, then, into your arms, Father,  
and embrace me in that Garden  
where the leaves of the tree are for healing.

Lk 15:20

Rev 22:2

Without the distractions of ill-health and pain,  
it will be good to be able to delight fully  
in all that is around me.

In the warmth and light of your company  
I will enjoy meeting again many loved ones  
who have died over the years.

Ministry for me will continue there, Father,  
as I will intercede  
for many I will have left behind in this present life.

I will love them still and will be praying for them  
for the remainder of their lives.

May knowledge of that intercession  
be of support to them in this life.

Meanwhile, Father,

in the time between now and my death, your promise to be with me will strengthen me.	
Keep me grateful for so many blessings to the end of this life and beyond, and keep me ever-cheerful and at peace.	cf Eph 1:3; 5:20
Throughout my own time of waiting, Father, may my sharing of the path of common experience and of compassion lead me to continue to be of help to others in whatever ways I can: supporting and healing the broken-hearted and binding up their wounds, conscious that I am aiming to share with them the comfort and support which you have brought to me.	cf 2 Cor 5:18  Ps 147:3 2 Cor 1:1-11
Creator-Father, you make all things new. May the love of Christ overwhelm me and may I be full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Amen.	Rev 21:1 cf 2 Cor 5:14 Acts 6:1-7

*Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC*

## **C-15**

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

I can reflect, Father,  
on 'moves' I have made in my life:  
changing from primary to secondary school,  
moving home,  
leaving one place of work for another,  
going from one town to another.

As illness progresses for me, Father,  
I reflect that my 'biggest move' is yet to come  
and grows closer.

I do rejoice, Father, that when I die  
your welcome for me  
and your care for me  
will far exceed  
even the greatest examples  
of love and care  
that people, in their kindness, have had for me.

In the process of dying  
I am glad to find myself focussing  
on the good and the positive.  
There really is no point in thinking, "If only..."!!

I have reflected much about  
the uniqueness of individuals,  
and I am touched greatly  
on seeing the ways in which so many people  
make choices and decisions  
about their everyday lives.

I am reminded that Jesus said  
that unless we become like little children  
we will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Father, I give thanks  
for all whose lives have touched mine  
with your love and compassion.

It is encouraging to appreciate  
that so much goodness in people  
will be found to be 'writ large'  
when they make that move to heaven  
and, to take this further, Lord God,  
the greatest degree  
of the finest qualities in human beings  
I will find 'writ very large'  
in the Person of you, their Creator.

It is self-evident to me  
that so much that we treasure in this life  
we will experience fully and abundantly  
in the promised life to come.

My 'list' of what I think I will discover  
after my death, Father,  
could start with these:  
light, laughter and goodness,  
love, loyalty and enjoyment,  
friendship, fulfilment and beauty,  
peace, protection and rest,  
appreciation, awe and wonder  
compassion, kindness and joy.

I look forward in the kingdom of heaven  
to enjoy so very much  
freedom from pain and illness,  
and freedom to be more fully in your presence.

In heaven people are re-united, too, with many people,  
have relationships restored and renewed,  
and understand much that previously we could see only darkly.

I am sure that many insights will be gained, too,  
into many unanswered questions!

Even faith will no longer be needed  
because I will relate directly  
with you, Father, and your Son and the Holy Spirit.

For my own 'big move', Father,  
I ask you to continue to prepare me.

Especially, Father, I ask  
that you keep me grateful  
for so many blessings



- and keep me ever-cheerful. Amen.

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## C-16

### ADJUSTING TO DYING; BRING PEACE, LORD, IN MY LIFE EACH DAY

Lord Jesus,

I can think of your people down the ages  
who have travelled over life's stormy sea  
and, in dying, have reached the harbour  
of peace, light and happiness.

As you calmed the sea,

I ask you to be with me  
and bring peace in my life each day,  
because the boat of my own life  
is small  
and the ocean is very large.

As you have set my course,

I ask you to steer my life  
towards the shore of everlasting life.

Brings me, at last,

along with all who are dear to me,  
to the quiet rest that I seek,  
where you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Nicholas Hutchinson – 'Praying Each Day of the Year' – 3 August (Matthew James Publishing)  
Inspired by a prayer of St Augustine and the Breton Fisherman's Prayer*

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## C-17

### I REFLECT THAT I WILL DIE SOON: SOON, FATHER, I WILL BE COMING TO YOU

1.

Soon I will be coming to you, Loving Father,  
and I reflect now  
on so many blessings  
you have given to me over the years.

2.

I am conscious  
of so much beauty and so much delight  
that I have experienced,  
and I thank you  
that you have kept my eyes and ears open.  
I thank you that your Spirit  
has inspired me in many ways.

3.

Soon, Father, I will be coming to you,  
and I am conscious  
of so much love and affection  
that has come my way,  
and I am most grateful, Father,  
for so many individuals  
who have been part of my life.

4.

I rejoice in the many people  
who have accompanied me in so many ways  
over my lifetime,  
and most especially in the last few years  
of an even longer time of severe illness.  
I ask you to return, Lord, many times over  
the warmth and love, the care and affection  
that I have been shown.  
I am grateful that all of that  
has been a reflection, too,  
of your own love and compassion for me  
and for us all.  
With confidence, Father,  
I place myself into your hands.

5.

Soon, Father, I will be coming to you.  
I look forward to meeting again  
many people I have known and loved from the past.  
When the time is right,  
I look forward to them gathering to welcome me  
and then lead me forward to you.  
It will be good to smile and walk alongside each other  
as we journey together once again  
to life in all its richness and abundance  
in your presence.

6.

Friends and relatives will be there, too,  
as well as others who have touched my life:  
many an individual  
whose life and death has influenced me,  
and they will accompany me still further.

7.

And then it will be Jesus, your Son and my Brother,  
who will take my hand in his

– his hand which bears the marks of love.  
And in that touch  
I know that I will sense in all its fullness  
what it is to be redeemed and healed  
and made whole.

8.  
Then, as Jesus leads me forward the next few steps,  
will he introduce me to you, Father,  
or will you smile and show me *your* hand  
where it will be clear to see  
that, there, my name is written?  
I look forward so much  
to all that it means to be clasped in your arms,  
enfolded in your life,  
and encompassed, embraced, in your love.

9.  
And then I will ask your blessing, Father,  
on so many who have enriched my life.  
There, too, I trust,  
will be those I know  
who have plumbed the depths of darkness,  
whose burdens  
have often come close to crushing them,  
and whose lives, I hope,  
I might have touched somehow with your love.  
I will ask you to bless them and make them whole,  
just as others have blessed me  
and have prayed  
that I might be made whole.

10.  
I will remember, too, Father,  
those I have wounded  
and those who have wounded me,  
that all of us may be embraced  
in your love and care, your mercy and kindness.  
With confidence, Father,  
I place myself into your hands.

*Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC*

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## **C-18**

### **LIVING, DYING AND GOING HOME**

Loving Father, faithful God,  
as I remember before you those who have died,  
I reflect, as well, upon the time remaining to me.  
I ask you to touch my heart and renew my spirit,  
so that I may live in such a way  
that I express thanks every day

1 Cor 1:9

for so many blessings.

And when I bid farewell to this world  
remember, Father, your own tender care of me.  
Having guided me since I left my mother's womb  
you have called me by name,  
declared me precious in your eyes,  
and watched each breath I have taken.

Job 31:18  
Is 43:1  
Is 43:4  
Job 10:12

And when I breathe my last,  
look not at my sin, Father,  
but at the face of Jesus, my Brother and Redeemer.  
Hear him say that he called me his friend,  
made his home in me,  
and walked beside me  
through the valley of darkness.

Jn 15:15  
Jn 15:4  
Ps 23:4

Remember, too, Father, that your Holy Spirit  
has dwelt in me and prayed in me,  
and helped me in my weakness.  
Listen to the Spirit speak on my behalf.

Rom 8:11,26  
cf Jn 14:26

Enfold me then in your love, Father,  
as I know you embrace me now,  
and admit me, I pray,  
to your kingdom of light, happiness and peace,  
to the place that you have prepared for me,  
alongside those I love  
and beside many who have gone before me,  
marked with the sign of faith:  
there to see you face-to-face,  
where pain and suffering will be no more.

Mt 25:34  
1 Cor 13:12

And when the earth encloses my body, Father,  
look then at the faith and compassion  
of those who have surrounded me  
with their love.  
Bring them comfort, Father,  
since only those who love can mourn,  
and assure them  
that I will remember them before you  
in your kingdom. Amen.

cf Lk 23:42

*Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC*

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## **D - MOURNING**

## D-19

### ON THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE

Father,

it was you who created \_\_\_\_\_  
and knit **him/her** together in her mother's womb.

You have written **him/her** name on the palm of your hands  
and **he/she** is precious in your eyes.

You called **him/her** to walk in your presence  
and live a tale of friendship with you,  
and your Spirit enabled **him/her**  
to touch people's hearts and enrich their lives.

**He/she** looked for the best in people  
and rejoiced in all that is good and honourable.

**He/she** worked cheerfully and lived at peace with others.

**He/she** had a profound respect for everyone  
and was, for some,  
even closer than a **brother/sister**.

Embrace **him/her** warmly, Father, this day and always,  
crowning **him/her** with your love and compassion. Amen.

Ps 139:13

Wis 7:1

Is 49:16

Is 43:4

Ps 56:14

cf Wis 7:27; Jms 2:23

cf Rom 12:10-19

cf Phil 4:4-9

Rom 12:8,18

Rom 12:10

Prov 18:24

cf Lk 15:20

Ps 103:4

*Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC*

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## D-20

### ADDRESSING THE DECEASED IN A 'SONG OF FAREWELL'

**ALL**

Go forth, \_\_\_\_\_, upon your final journey.  
Go from this world and rest in peace  
in the presence of God the Father, who created you;  
in the love of Jesus our Lord, who calls you his friend,  
and in the warmth of the Holy Spirit,  
who has made his home in you.

**READER 1**

In death your life is now changed, not ended,  
and we give you back to our faithful God  
who first gave you to us.  
On our common pilgrimage  
we have accompanied you  
as far as we can go together.  
Our ways part for now  
but, beyond our horizon,  
you will be met by Jesus  
who is himself the Way.

**ALL**

May the angels lead you into paradise,  
and the saints take you by the hand  
and walk with you into the presence of God.  
There, face-to-face, you will meet our loving Father.  
His hands will be swift to welcome,  
and he will hold you close:  
his tender love  
is that of a mother for her child,  
and he has written your name, \_\_\_\_\_,  
on the palm of his hands.

**READER 2**

You will find rest in Christ, the Good Shepherd,  
who carries you and says: "Do not be afraid."  
His peace will be yours  
in a place where pain and sorrow will be no more.  
There in God's kingdom  
of light, happiness and peace  
the Holy Spirit will heal and renew  
and strengthen you.  
The end of your pilgrimage will be a new beginning  
in the bright dawn of eternal day.

**ALL**

Go forth, \_\_\_\_\_, upon your final journey.  
Go from this world, and be with God.

*Brother Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC*

*Permission is hereby given by the author to those who wish to use this text in a liturgy.  
The words are based on Scripture, the Liturgy and the Early Church Fathers.*

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**D-21**

**WELCOME HIM/HER INTO YOUR KINGDOM  
WHERE PAIN AND SUFFERING ARE NO MORE**

Loving Father, your Son declared  
that those who mourn are "blessed",  
knowing that only those who love greatly  
can mourn.

We believe that all the ties of friendship and affection  
which knit us as one throughout our lives  
do not unravel with death.

Jesus wept on hearing of the death  
of his good friend, Lazarus,  
and others remarked

*“See how much he loved him”.*  
Father, we ask you  
to strengthen us and bless us this day  
as we mourn our **brother/sister**, \_\_\_\_\_,  
whom you love.

Welcome **him/her** into your kingdom  
of light, happiness and peace,  
where pain and suffering are no more.

Conscious that suffering in your way  
means changing for the better  
and leaves no regrets,  
we proclaim that what we suffer in this life  
can never be compared  
to the glory which is waiting for us. 2 Cor 7:10

May our **brother/sister**  
now know Christ fully  
and may he rejoice for ever, Father,  
in your presence. cf Phil 3:10

*Nicholas Hutchinson (based partly on some themes in prayers from ‘The Roman Missal’)*

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This text was found at the homepage of [www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org)

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## **SIX BOOKS** **by Nicholas Hutchinson**

To look at the author’s six books,  
go to the publisher’s website at  
[www.matthew-james.co.uk](http://www.matthew-james.co.uk)

Click on ‘*Catalogue*’  
Against ‘*keyword*’ type in the word ‘*praying*’.  
There, amongst others, the author’s six books  
can be viewed:

**‘Lord, Teach us to Pray’**  
**‘Praying Each Day of the Year’** – 3 volumes  
**‘Walk In My Presence’** – 2 volumes.

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