

Prayers for the Bereaved

Each occasion we glimpse them - Source unknown

Each occasion we glimpse her,
that turn of a head, that smile,
the way he walked, his sense of humour,
each time the pain we feel in our hearts.

In time, though,
through the windows of our tears
we will see them
and smile.

In time
we will let go of sorrow.

In time
beauty, music and remembered places
will bring solace not pain.

In your time,
God of all time,
may what we have sown in pain
be reaped in joy.

We seem to give them back to you God - Fr Bede Jarrett O.P.

We seem to give them back to you God,
Who gave them to us.
Yet as you not lose them in the giving,
So we do not lose them by their return.
Not as the world gives, do you give, O lover of souls.

What you give, you do not take away
For what is yours is ours if we are yours.
And life is eternal and love is immortal,
and death is only an horizon,
and an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sights.

Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further;
cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly:
draw us closer to yourself
that we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved
ones
who are with you.
And while you do prepare a place for us,
prepare us also for that happy place,
that where you are, we may also be for evermore.
Amen

Prayer on the Death of a Loved One – Liam Lawton Lord

My heart is numb
The one I love has died
And I have cried and cried

There is an empty space in my heart
That I long to fill

As you wept for Lazarus Your friend
Your human heart was breaking
So now I take your place

Lift the veil that I might see beyond my grief
Where love is pure and
Light will reach beneath
These empty walls

May no harm come to them
Who have taken leave

Pilgrims of Paradise
May their journey be gentle
And blessed memory
Lighten their way

May they see the glimmer
Of Heaven's light
Calling them deeper and deeper
Into eternal beauty

May they recognise the kindly faces
Of loved ones, old friends and neighbours
Who have gathered to greet them
And take them to the land of eternal summer

May they see you Lord
As you are
In radiant beauty
With a gaze from beautiful eyes
That never leaves them
May they know the sweet embrace
Of your soft tanned hands
Lord
In my empty moments
May blessed memory
Be the bridge
From my heart to Heaven

So rest in peace O gently soul
Until that day
When love will call us home

**Prayer for the Loss of a Loved One through Suicide –
Liam Lawton**

Lord
I pray this night for all who grieve
because their loved one has taken leave
without warning
without sign
gone before their time

What sadness fills the heart
to cause a soul to thus depart
and leave so much behind?

Lord, there are so many questions
unasked
unanswered
unknown
Why such loss
should ever come
to many homes?

Lord
may our angel bring
comfort in the endless night of sorrow
may a quiet peace settle
within the hearts of those left behind
and in your goodness
can you stir a sign?
A treasured memory
A word of praise
A smiling a photo
A friend's embrace
All reminding
We are not alone

May you call home
the one who has left us
to your consoling arms
where pain and sorrow
are no longer known

May quiet understanding
come to fill the vacant place
where memory serves to ease the pain
and somewhere deep inside
hope will bloom again
And when you look
through Heaven's veil
on those now left behind
may soft tears fall
Like silver pearls
And ease the lonely mind

For in your house
there is a room
your promise to us all
a place of peace
a place of love
a healing place for all.

Prayer of the Bereaved – Source Unknown

Lord, at the moment nothing seems to be able to help
the loss I feel.

My heart is broken and my spirit mourns.

All I know is that Your grace is sufficient.

This day, this hour

Moment by moment

I choose to lean on You,

For when I am at my weakest Your strength is
strongest.

I pour out my grief to You

And praise You that on one glorious day

When all suffering is extinguished and love has
conquered

We shall walk together again.

Prayer of the Bereaved – Source Unknown

Dearest Jesus,

who wept at the death of your friend

and taught that they who mourn

shall be comforted,

grant us the comfort of your presence
in our loss.

Send Your Holy Spirit to direct us

lest we make hasty or foolish decisions.

Send Your Spirit to give us courage

lest through fear we recoil from living.

Send Your Spirit to bring us your peace

lest bitterness, false guilt, or regret

take root in our hearts.

The Lord has given.

The Lord has taken away.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Amen.