



Comfort

Praying for the deceased in November

Opening Hymn: Be Not Afraid

Opening Prayer

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Heavenly Father, you are the God of Comfort.

As we gather together in your name let us hold on to the hope and promise that you console and comfort us by your presence. Through your Son Jesus Christ, you comforted the afflicted, the suffering, the neglected and the bereaved. You brought healing, mercy, forgiveness and hope to their lives. Comfort us now and in our prayer today help us to remember the light that our loved ones brought to our lives, and the love and legacy that they left behind. We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord. **Amen.**

This week, we invite you to come forward to light your candle.

May it be a visible sign of our prayer for our loved ones.

A reading from St Matthew's Gospel.

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers and Intercessions

Let us pray:

As we stand together the response to our prayer is:

Comfort us, O Lord.

We pray for all those who work in health and palliative care, those who work in funeral ministry and our clergy. We pray that the Holy Spirit will fill them with His compassion and wisdom as they minister to the dying and bereaved. **(R)**

We pray for those particular people who we have come to remember and pray for today. We ask our loving Father to listen to our prayer and in his mercy give them peace. **(R)**

We pray for us gathered here who continue to grieve the loss of our friends and family. We ask Jesus, who mourned the death of his friend Lazarus, to give us the strength and courage we need to continue in our daily lives. **(R)**

We pray for those who feel they grieve alone, that they will experience the presence and peace of Christ who felt the pain of abandonment on the cross. **(R)**

We pray for those who have died and have no one to mourn and pray for them. **(R)**

You can shed tears

You can shed tears that they have gone,
or you can smile because they have lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that they will come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all they have left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see them,
or you can be full of the love you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember only that they have gone,
or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back.

Or you can do what they would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.



Closing Prayers

May we always recognise the power of love in our lives.
May we always remember that we are never alone,
that we are always connected to others past and present
with the eternal rhythm of the God of the universe.
You are the God of light and hope.

May we realise that each of our lives are unique,
and although we have lost some of our loved ones,
we still have our own role to play in life today and into the future.
May we learn to see ourselves with the same delight,
pride and expectations, with which God looks at us at every moment.
You are the God of light and hope.

God, we believe in your tender love for us.
Give comfort and strength to those who mourn.
Keep us all in your care and renew our lives in a spirit of trust.
You are the God of light and hope.

Eternal rest grant on to them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**Closing hymn: (*Marian antiphon can be said or sung*)
*or Salve Regina***