

# PASTORAL CARE OF SICK FEMALES

*This version has been designed for use  
on a mobile phone screen.*

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

Suffering, illness, and frailty are part of the human condition. The **Sacrament of Anointing**, one of the seven sacraments of the Church, is part of the Church's healing ministry and pastoral care of those who are sick and frail. Jesus always showed compassion and mercy to those in need – never condemnation. Christian faith helps the community to grapple with the difficulties and mystery of suffering.

Those who are seriously ill seek the special help of God's grace and the support of the Christian community. The Christian community, as the face of Christ, supports the sick by their presence and prayer, offering comfort in times of pain and anxiety.

The **Pastoral Care of the Sick** contains a variety of rites for the Church's healing ministry. The Sacrament of Anointing is conferred by a priest and is celebrated at times of pastoral need. Surrounded by the community, the celebration of the sacrament offers comfort, stirs up hope and strengthens faith. Other rituals are provided for visiting the sick and taking communion to the housebound that designated members of the parish community may lead. These acts of kindness and prayer unite those who are sick with the local faith community.

The sacramental ritual is a sign of love and the compassion of Christ. The forehead and hands of the sick and frail are gently marked with the blessed Oil of the Sick in the sign of the cross. Together with the laying on of hands and prayers, the whole person is sustained and strengthened. It may be celebrated during Mass, or at a home, hospital, or other facility, whenever there is a need.

Parish communities may celebrate general Masses of Anointing. They also pray for those who are absent, through sickness, at the Sunday Mass in the Prayer of the Faithful.

If the person is not conscious *yet would have desired the anointing*, the sacrament may still be celebrated. Children may be anointed if they have some understanding of the sacrament.

***The sacrament is not conferred after a person has died.***

Following a return to health, the person is encouraged to participate in a ***Mass of Thanksgiving*** for the blessings received.

## Rites for the Dying

The rites for the dying differ to the rites for the sick. The ministry to the dying places emphasis on the Lord's promise of eternal life and final communion, or viaticum. Viaticum is given to the sick person as food for the final stage of life's journey. The dying may receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the last time within Mass, surrounded by family and friends. It may also be given as part of a single rite which includes penance and, if there is sufficient time, an anointing.

# MODIFIED SERVICE

## GREETING

- The love of God our Father,  
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

*Let us pray to receive the mercy of God.*

Lord Jesus, you healed the sick:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you forgave sinners:

Christ have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you give us yourself to heal us and  
bring us strength:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

*If the sick person so wishes, the sacrament of penance is celebrated; in case of necessity, the confession may be generic.*

May the Lord Jesus welcome you.  
He came to call sinners, not the just.  
Have confidence in him.

*Prayer of Sorrow:*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
have mercy on me, a sinner.

*Then the priest extends his hands over the penitent's head (or at least extends his right hand) and says:*

God, the Father of mercies,  
through the death and resurrection of Jesus has  
reconciled the world to himself and poured out the  
Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins;  
through the ministry of the Church  
may God grant you pardon and peace,  
and I absolve you from your sins  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## 1 John 4:16

### A reading from the first letter of John

We ourselves have known and put our faith in  
God's love towards ourselves.

God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in  
God, and God lives in them.

The word of the Lord.

## Matthew 11:25–30

### A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus exclaimed,

'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for  
hiding these things from the learned and the clever  
and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father,  
for that is what it pleased you to do.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father  
and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as  
no one knows the Father except the Son and those  
to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are  
overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my  
yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and  
humble in heart, and you will find rest for your  
souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Luke 7:19–23

### A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

*The healing hand of Christ is a sign of the presence of God; that same hand is extended to us in this sacrament now, to console and strengthen us.*

John, summoning two of his disciples, sent them to the Lord to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?’ When the men reached Jesus they said, ‘John the Baptist has sent us to you, to ask, “Are you the one who is to come or have we to wait for someone else?”’

It was just then that he cured many people of diseases and afflictions and of evil spirits, and gave the gift of sight to many who were blind. Then he gave the messengers their answer,

‘Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, the Good News is proclaimed to the poor and happy is the one who does not lose faith in me.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



### **John 6:51**

#### **A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

Jesus says:

‘I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **John 14:6**

#### **A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

Jesus says:

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **John 15:5**

#### **A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

Jesus says: ‘I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in them, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

## John 6:54-58

### A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus says:

‘Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood  
has eternal life,  
and I shall raise them up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food  
and my blood is real drink.

The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
lives in me, and I live in them.

As I, who am sent by the living Father,  
myself draw life from the Father,  
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven;  
not like the bread our ancestors ate:  
they are dead,  
but anyone who eats this bread  
will live for ever.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

# ANOINTING OF THE SICK

## LITANY OF ANOINTING

My brothers and sisters, in our prayer of faith  
let us seek compassion and healing on all  
God's family.

Come and strengthen *her* through this holy  
anointing:

Lord have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Free *her* from all harm:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Free *her* from sin and all temptation:

Lord have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Relieve the sufferings of all the sick:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Assist all those dedicated to the care of the sick:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Give life and health to *our sister Name* on whom

I now lay my hands in your name:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

## LAYING ON OF HANDS

*In silence, the priest lays his hands on the head of the sick person.*

## PRAYER BEFORE ANOINTING

268 The priest says:

Let us ask the Lord to come to our *sister Name* with his merciful love, and grant *her* relief through this holy anointing.

## ANOINTING

269 The priest anoints the sick person with the blessed oil.

*First he anoints the forehead, saying:*

**Through this holy anointing  
may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with  
the grace of the Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

*Then he anoints the hands (or other body parts that are more accessible), saying:*

**May the Lord who frees you from sin  
save you and raise you up.**

Amen.

*The sacramental form is said only once, for the anointing of the forehead and hands, and is not repeated.*

## PRAYER AFTER ANOINTING

*Let us pray.*

Father in heaven,  
through this holy anointing  
grant *Name* comfort in *her* suffering.

When *she* is afraid, give *her* courage,  
when afflicted, give *her* patience,  
when dejected, afford *her* hope,  
and when alone, assure *her* of the support  
of your holy people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*or* **In extreme or terminal illness**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you chose to share our human nature,  
to redeem all people, and to heal the sick.

Look with compassion upon your servant *Name*,  
whom we have anointed in your name with this  
holy oil for the healing of *her* body and spirit.

Support *her* with your power,  
comfort *her* with your protection,  
and give *her* the strength to fight against evil.

Since you have given *her* a share in your own  
passion, help *her* to find hope in suffering,  
for you are Lord for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

or

In advanced age

God of mercy, look kindly on your servant *Name* who has grown weak under the burden of years. In this holy anointing *she* asks for healing in body and soul.

Fill *her* with the strength of your Holy Spirit.

Keep *her* firm in faith and serene in hope, so that *she* may give us all an example of patience and joyfully witness to the power of your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*266 The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer:*

*Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so we have the courage to pray:*

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.

## COMMUNION AS VIATICUM

*267 The priest goes to the sick person and, showing the blessed sacrament, says:*

The body of Christ.

The sick person answers: 'Amen.'

*Immediately, or after giving communion to the sick person, the priest adds the form for viaticum:*

May the Lord Jesus Christ protect you  
and lead you to eternal life. Amen.

*Others present who wish to receive communion  
then do so in the usual way.*

Father, you have given us this bread from heaven.  
Through our sharing in this mystery,  
teach us to judge wisely the things of earth,  
and to treasure all your gifts from heaven.

We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

# APOSTOLIC PARDON

*265 The priest may give the apostolic pardon for the dying:*

Through the holy mysteries of our redemption, may almighty God release you from all punishments in this life and in the life to come.

May he open to you the gates of paradise and welcome you to everlasting joy. Amen.

By the authority which the Apostolic See has given me, I grant you a full pardon and the remission of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

*When the moment of death seems near, some of the following prayers may be said: 3 OPTIONS >>>*

**Go forth, Christian soul, from this world**

in the name of God the almighty Father,  
who created you,

in the name of Jesus Christ,

Son of the living God,

who suffered for you,

in the name of the Holy Spirit,

who was poured out upon you:

go forth, faithful Christian.

May you live in peace this day,

may your home be with God in Zion,

with Mary and with Joseph,

and all the saints and angels. Amen.



or

**I commend you, to almighty God,**

and entrust you to your Creator.

May you return to God who formed you from the dust of the earth.

May holy Mary, the angels, and all the saints come to meet you as you go forth from this life.

May Jesus who was crucified for you bring you freedom and peace.

May Jesus who died for you admit you into his garden of paradise.

May Jesus, the true Shepherd, acknowledge you as one of his flock.

May he forgive all your sins, and set you among those he has chosen.

May you see your Redeemer face to face, and enjoy the vision of God for ever.

*or*

**Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,**  
hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.  
To you we cry, the children of Eve;  
to you we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this land of exile.

Turn, then, most gracious advocate  
your eyes of mercy towards us;

lead us home at last and show us  
the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus:

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.  
Pray for us, O holy mother of God.

That we may be made worthy  
of the promises of God.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

270 The priest says one of the following prayers:

Father, you readily take into account every stirring of good will, and you never refuse to pardon the sins of those who seek your forgiveness.

Have mercy on your servant *Name* who has now entered the struggle of *her* final agony.

May this holy anointing and our prayer of faith comfort and aid *her* in body and soul.

Forgive all *her* sins, and protect *her* with your loving care.

We ask this, Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, because he has won the victory over death, opened the way to eternal life, and now lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

Amen.

[B] *When anointing and viaticum are given together:*

Lord God, merciful Father, comforter of the afflicted, look kindly on your servant *Name*, who trusts in you.

Though now weighed down with grievous distress, may *she* find relief through this holy anointing; and may the food *she* has received, the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, refresh and strengthen *her* for *her* journey to life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

*271 The priest blesses the sick person:*

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

*or*

May God our Father bless you.

May God the Son heal you.

May God the holy Spirit enlighten you,

in the name of the Father, and the Son, ✠

and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER DEATH

When death has occurred, one or more of the following prayers may be said:

6 OPTIONS >>>

Saints of God, come to *her* aid!

Come to meet *her*, angels of the Lord!

**Receive her soul and present her  
to God the Most High.**

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;  
may angels lead you to Abraham's side.

**Receive her soul and present her  
to God the Most High.**

Give *her* eternal rest, O Lord,  
and may your light shine on *her* for ever.

**Receive her soul and present her  
to God the Most High.**

The following prayer is added:

Let us pray.

All-powerful and merciful God,  
we commend to you *Name*, your servant.

In your mercy and love,  
blot out any sins *she has* committed  
through human weakness.

In this world *she has* died:  
let *her* live with you for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

B

**My soul hopes in the Lord.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord. Hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity.

The following prayer is added:

Let us pray.

God of love,  
welcome into your presence your *daughter*  
*Name*, whom you have called from this life.

Release *her* from all *her* sins, bless *her* with  
eternal light and peace, raise *her* up to live for  
ever with all your saints in the glory of the  
resurrection.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

**Lord, remember me in your kingdom.**

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.

The following prayer is added:

Let us pray.

God of mercy, hear our prayers and be merciful to your *daughter*, whom you have called from this life. Welcome *her* into the company of your saints, in the kingdom of light and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

D

Almighty and eternal God, hear our prayers for your *daughter Name*, whom you have called from this life to yourself.

Grant *her* light, happiness, and peace. Let *her* pass in safety through the gates of death, and live for ever with all your saints in the light you promised to Abraham and to all his descendants in faith.

Guard *her* from all harm and on that great day of resurrection and reward raise *her* up with all your saints. Pardon *her* sins and give *her* eternal life in your kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



E

Loving and merciful God,  
we entrust our *sister* to your mercy.

You loved *her* greatly in this life:  
now that *she is* freed from all its cares,  
give *her* happiness and peace for ever.

The old order has passed away:  
welcome *her* now into paradise  
where there will be no more sorrow,  
no more weeping or pain,  
but only peace and joy  
with Jesus, your Son,  
and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen.**

F

God of our destiny,  
into your hands we commend *Name*

We are confident that with all who have died  
in Christ *she* will be raised to life on the last  
day and live with Christ for ever.

Lord, hear our prayer: welcome *her* into  
paradise and help us to comfort each other  
with the assurance of our faith until we all  
meet in Christ to be with you and with  
*Name* for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS

One of the following prayers may be said:

2 OPTIONS >>>

Let us pray.

God of all consolation,

in your unending love and mercy for us  
you turn the darkness of death  
into the dawn of new life.

Show compassion to your people  
in their sorrow.

*[Be our refuge and our strength  
to lift us from the darkness of this grief  
to the peace and light of your presence.]*

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

by dying for us, conquered death  
and by rising again, restored life.

May we then go forward eagerly to meet  
Jesus, and after our life on earth  
be reunited with our brothers and sisters  
where every tear will be wiped away.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

or

Lord Jesus, our Redeemer,  
you willingly gave yourself up to death  
so that all people might be saved  
and pass from death into a new life.  
Listen to our prayers,  
look with love on your people  
who mourn and pray for their *sister Name*.

Lord Jesus, holy and compassionate:  
forgive *her* sins.  
By dying you opened the gates of life  
for those who believe in you:  
do not let our *sister* be parted from you,  
but by your glorious power  
give *her* light, joy, and peace in heaven  
where you live for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

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