

Prayers for the Journey

Graduation and other New Ventures

For Times of Change

The Rev. Linda C. Smith-Criddle (Women's Uncommon Prayers)

Assist us, Lord, in living hopefully into the future. In the face of change, help us to set unnecessary fears aside and to recognize our potential for creative response. Help us to develop a reasonable optimism when confronted by “the new” and to guard against our own defensiveness. Be with us as we remember and celebrate former times, and keep us from unreasonable yearning for them, which takes us from the work you have set before us in our time. All this we ask in the name of your Child, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing on Someone's Journey

Celtic Daily Prayer

I bless you, (Name),
in the name of the Holy Three,
the Father, the Son and the Sacred Spirit.
May you drink deeply
from God's cup of joy.
May the night bring you quiet.
and when you come
to the Father's palace
may his door be open
and the welcome warm.

My Prayer for You

Celtic Daily Prayer

May the Father of Life pour out His grace on you;
may you feel His hand in everything you do
and be strengthened by the things he brings you through:
this is my prayer for you.

May the Son of God be Lord in all your ways;
may he Shepherd you the length in all your days,
and in your heart may He receive the praise:
this is my prayer for you.

And despite how simple it may sound,
I pray that His grace will abound
and motivate everything you do;
and may the fullness of His love be shared through you.

May His Spirit comfort you, and make you strong,
may He discipline you gently when you're wrong,
and in your heart may He give you a song:
this is my prayer for you.

May Jesus be Lord in all your ways,
may He Shepherd you the length of all your days,
and in your heart may He receive the praise:
this is my prayer for you, my prayer for you.

Blessing of Graduates

(National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry)

Before you were even formed, God knew you.
While in your Mother's womb, God named you.
At your birth, God's breath filled you with life.
Today we celebrate what you have become
at this moment in time. And so we pray,
God of our beginnings,
We thank you for the gifts of these graduates;
their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity,
their open speech and encouraging words.
Their contributions have blessed and challenged us,
and we have become a richer
and more diverse community because of them.
As they step forward into the world that awaits,
comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your divine presence.
Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus
as modern-day disciples in a world that needs their spirit.
Guide their feet as they move through life,
protecting them from the pitfalls of darkness
while they help to lead future generations
into the warmth and promise of your light.
We ask this blessing upon each of them,
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
AMEN!

Blessings for the Graduates

All wise, all loving God,
We thank you for all your gifts to us;
for making us,
for saving us in Christ,
for calling us to be your people.
Look with love on our graduates
and bless them as they complete their years of high school.
May your Spirit give them many skills and talents
and help them to use these gifts for your glory
and for the good of all people.
In your kindness,
guide them along paths that are level and smooth.
We ask these blessings through Christ our Lord.
Amen

For a Graduation

By Anne Kitch (The Anglican Family Prayer Book)

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all schools, colleges, and universities (especially . . .) and for those who teach and those who learn. Bless *N.* who has completed this current course in *her* education. Be with *her* as *she* embarks on the next stage of *her* life's journey and grant *her* many opportunities for sound learning, new discoveries, and the pursuit of wisdom. And may all *her* questioning bring *her* ever closer to you, the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Graduation Blessing

Proverbs 4

Hear, O children, the instruction of a parent,
And give attention that you may gain understanding,
For I give you sound teaching;
Do not abandon my instruction.
Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding!
Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
"Do not forsake her, and she will guard you;
Love her, and she will watch over you.
I have directed you in the way of wisdom;
I have led you in upright paths.
When you walk, your steps will not be impeded;
And if you run, you will not stumble.
Take hold of instruction; do not let go.
Guard her, for she is your life.

Graduation Blessings

Prayers from the Heart (Sacred Heart University Prayer Book)

I.

God of wisdom, bless these graduates
Whose hearts you have fashioned
For beauty and grace.
Bless those who love them
And those who have guided them
To this holy time and place.
Call them to discovery,
To seek their truest self,
To fall in love with wisdom
And claim her as their wealth.
Send them forth in knowledge,
Your teachings be their guide.
Watch over them,
Protect them,
Walk softly by their side. Amen.

II.

May God give you strength
And a virtuous heart,
So that in time of trial
You will find yourself armed with treasures you can use.
 May God give you faith,
 So that in leaving this place,
 You know firmly and with conviction
 Who made you, and why,
 And for what purpose.
 May God give you peace, a lasting peace
 That dwells in your heart
 And enables you to comprehend
 The breadth and length,
 The height and depth of Christ's love for you.
 And one day soon may God return you to us
 So that we may again rejoice in your goodness
 And give thanks for our time together. Amen.

Planning for the Future

Avery Brooke (Plain Prayers for a Complicated World)

Help us, Lord, to look at the past and present so that we may better plan for the future, and to face our strengths and weaknesses with honesty and wisdom. Help us to be open to your guidance as we discuss and plan for the future, and grant us both generous imagination and practical plans.

Blessing Prayer for Others About to Leave on a Journey

By Edward Hays (Prayers for the Domestic Church)

Blessed are You, Lord our God,
for you have created a wide and wonderful world
in which we can travel.

We ask your blessing upon _____ (*names*)
as they are about to leave on a trip.

May You, Holy Guide of Travelers,
be their ever-near companion,
spreading the road before them
with beauty and adventure.

Free that road from harm and evil,
and send as their escorts
Your holy spirits, Your angelic messengers,
who accompanied the holy ones of days past.

On this journey, may they take with them
as part of their traveling equipment
a heart wrapped in wonder
with which to rejoice in all they shall meet.

Along with that clothing of wonder,
may they have room in their luggage
for a mystic map.

With the aid of this map,
may they read the invisible meanings,
of the events of this journey ---
of possible disappointments and delays,
of possible breakdowns and rainy day troubles.

Always awake to Your Sacred Presence
and to Your divine compassionate love,
they shall see in all that happens,
in the beautiful and the bad,
the mystery of Your holy plan.

May the blessing of the Father,
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit
be upon you throughout this trip;
may it shield you from all harm
and bring you home again in safety and in peace. Amen.

Bibliography

These prayers and blessings were taken from the following books, which also contain a wealth of many other excellent prayers for other events in our daily life and work.

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