

Church logo

Praying Farewell

**to**

**Revd.**

**In the Parish of**

as they (move on/retire) from this place.

on

(date and time)

President:

*This may be used when anyone is departing from the local community. It may be adapted according to circumstance, including the absence of the person leaving. To symbolise unending love, the group may gather in a circle.*

[*Retiree or person moving on*

In the name of God,

the eternal Trinity,

**Amen]**

God of our beginnings and endings,

we celebrate all we have shared with *N and N*

and ask your blessing as *they* continue on *their* journey.

May the love that is in our hearts

be a bond that unites us forever,

wherever we may be.

May the power of your presence

bless this moment of our leave-taking;

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen**

[*alternative*

God of our beginnings and our endings,

we thank you for the varieties of ministries to which you call us

at different times and in different places;

we ask your blessing on [name]

as she continues her journey in faith.

As you are eternally present, in life-giving love,

so assure her of that Love

now and in the days to come.

**Amen]**

PSALMODY

You, O God, will guard us from all evil:

you will protect our lives.

**You will protect our going out and our coming in:**

**both now and for ever.**

Where can I flee from your Spirit:

or where can I go from your presence?

**If I climb to heaven, you are there:**

**if I lie in the grave, you are there also.**

If I take the wings of the morning:

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

**even there, your hand shall lead me:**

**your right hand shall hold me fast.**

*from Ps 121 & 139*

Come to our help, comfort us and give us life,

in your merciful goodness, O God,

for we are yours;

keep our feet from the evil path

and save us through Jesus Christ, your Word and Wisdom. **Amen**

[*alternative*

In your merciful goodness, O God,

come to our help,

comfort us and give us life,

for we are yours;

keep our feet from the paths of unrighteousness,

ever walking close to Jesus Christ,

your Word and your Wisdom. **Amen]**

READING

Phil 1:3,4,9 Ex 13:21-22 Jn 3:5-8 Jn 16:21-24 2 Cor 4:7-9

[*Retiree or person moving on*

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom my family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

*Ephesians 3:14-19*]

RESPONSE

*The following Response may be said. The Local Community may say the words in* ***bold*** *either together or through a representative.*

**As you journey onward,**

**we ask forgiveness where we have failed you;**

**we give thanks for all you have given us;**

**we assure you of our love and prayers.**

As I leave, I ask forgiveness where I have failed you;

I give thanks for all that you have given to me;

I assure you of my love and prayers.

**As you experience the pain of change**

**and the insecurity of moving on,**

**we pray that you may also experience**

**the blessing of inner growth.**

I know that God goes with me.

**As you meet the poor, the pained**

**and the stranger on the Way,**

**we pray that you may see in each one**

**the face of Christ.**

I know that God goes with me.

**As you walk through the good times and the bad,**

**we pray that you may never lose sight**

**of the shelter of God’s loving arms.**

I know that God goes with me.

**As you ponder your decisions**

**and wonder over the fruits of your choice,**

**we pray that the peace of Christ**

**may reign in your heart.**

I know that God goes with me.

We praise and thank you, God of the journey,

for *our brothers and sisters* who *are* soon to leave us.

We entrust *them* into your loving care,

knowing that you are always the faithful traveller and companion on the Way.

Shelter and protect *them* for all harm and anxiety.

Grant *them* the courage to meet the future,

and grace to let go into new life;

through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**.

*N and N,* may God bless you. **Amen**

*Each person present may then may the sign of the cross on the forehead of those leaving, saying,*

**Go in peace, for our God goes with you.**

*and the ‘kiss of peace’ may be exchanged.*

[*Retiree or person moving on* *alternative* RESPONSE *and ending*

*Name,* as you journey onward,

we hold before God all to whom you have ministered

in parishes, schools and prisons;

those whom you have knowingly served,

and those for whom you have been, unconsciously, the light of Christ;

we give thanks for the moments of blessing … … ;

we hand over the times of pain and failure … … ;

**As I journey onward,**

**I ask forgiveness where I have failed … …**

**and give thanks for all that has been given to me … …**

As you experience the pain of change

and the insecurity of moving on,

we pray that you may also experience

the blessing of inner growth.

**I know that God goes with me.**

As you meet the poor, the pained

and the stranger on the Way,

we pray that you may see in each one

the face of Christ.

**I know that God goes with me.**

As you walk through the good times and the bad,

we pray that you may never lose sight

of the shelter of God’s loving arms.

**I know that God goes with me.**

As you ponder your decisions

and wonder over the fruits of your choice,

we pray that the peace of Christ

may reign in your heart.

**I know that God goes with me.**

As you treasure all your relationships,

old and new,

we pray that you may know through human love,

the depth of God’s life-giving Love.

**I know that God goes with me.**

As you remain faithful to your priestly vocation

and be open to new ways of serving,

we pray that you may ever be attentive

to the voice of God’s calling,

**I know that God goes with me.**

*Word of wisdom may be offered*

BLESSING AND ANOINTING

We praise and thank you, God of the journey,

for [name], as she continues to discover ministry in retirement.

We entrust her into your loving care,

knowing that you are always the faithful traveller

and companion on the Way.

Shelter and protect her from all harm and anxiety.

Grant her the courage to meet the future,

and grace to let go into new life;

Retiree or person moving on *is anointed with oil*

and the blessing of God,

Source of all being,

eternal Word and Holy Spirit

be with us all,

now and through all the ages.

**Amen**

Go in peace, for God goes with you.

**In the name of Christ,**

**Amen.]**

*Celebrating Common Prayer, Pocket Edition p 276ff;*

*with adaptations to reflect the experience of Praying Farewell*