



Support of the Church

The support of the Church is essential for people as they journey through their end-of-life stages. Whether due to sickness or older age, Catholics prepare for death through prayer, acts of love, and the Sacraments of Communion, Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. In this way, Catholics are assured of God's love and supported by the prayers of the Church.

A good Catholic death

The hope of every Christian is to die in a state of grace, reconciled with God and others.

It is a rich consolation to know that we are spiritually united, even now, with those who have died, and when we die, we have the hope of seeing them again ourselves.

What does the Church say about death?

The Christian understanding of life and death sees them as inseparable, as indivisible.

There is a natural longing in each human for a life that is purposeful and worthwhile, a longing in each human heart for peace, companionship, love and happiness. This is a longing to discover the ultimate meaning of life, to know the love of God, and a destiny beyond the limit or horizon of death.

On one hand, in natural terms, death is a frightening mystery. We are stripped of all our current attachments; we leave our bodies, and our eternal soul goes to meet the Lord. On the other hand, Christians who have faith can approach death with peace and trust. There is a longing to be, as St Augustine of Hippo says, 'at home' with the Lord.

For more visit livingwelldyingwell.org
or call CatholicCare on 13 18 19.