

N, go gently on your voyage, beloved.
Let love call you home with the ebb tide.
May the moon light a way across the waters for you,
may the earth cradle you, the breeze blow you swiftly
until you reach the place where your tiny vessel
need labour no more, where love rises in bright fullness
and a new dawn breaks upon the white shore. Amen.

Giving of Candle (unlit)

Receive this candle as a sign of God's light in the darkness
and the light of N in your lives. You may wish to keep it
and light it on *her/his* anniversary.

Taking of Stone (optional)

I also invite you to take a stone, to keep with you.
It is a sign of how hard this has been
but also a reminder of God's steadfast love through it all.

Blessing

May the love of God the Creator surround you.
May the deep peace of Christ sustain you.
May the Holy Spirit strengthen you to journey with cour-
age and hope.
And should you fall into darkness,
may you not be overwhelmed
but know yourselves held by the everlasting arms of God,
this *day/night* and always. Amen.



Chaplaincy and
Spiritual Care Services

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Trust

BABY NAMING AND BLESSING AFTER DEATH

Remember to have a candle and a stone if desired.

Opening Sentence

God of all mercies, you make nothing in vain.
With you, nothing is wasted or incomplete.
In your love you hold all things without end.

Prayer

From love you came, to love you will return.
And for your earthly span,
you have been given that love might be known.
Jesus came into the world to show us that God is love
and that love is stronger than death.

The Naming

In the Scriptures (Isaiah 43. 1-3) God tells us,
'Fear not for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name,
you are mine.'

Let us offer our prayers in silence for *N* before *her/his* blessing.

If it is appropriate, each person may want to touch her/his hand as they say their prayer in silence.

God our Creator,
You formed this child in the womb;
you have known her/him from before time began.
We now wish to name her/him N,
a name that will be inscribed on our hearts for ever.

N, I bless you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life.

I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

Prayer for Hospital Staff (optional)

Occasionally, this prayer may be appropriate, especially if the family have been up and down to the hospital for weeks. Otherwise, do no use.

Loving God,
we give thanks for those in the hospital
who attend to the birthing and sustaining of new life.
We thank you for their skill and support
which had to cradle N into the world.
Bless all who helped our family and families like us
with strength and compassion
as they go about their work this day/night.
Amen.

Prayer for the Family

May the God of all consolation look with tenderness
on N and N and all their family at this time.
We give thanks for N/their little one/their child
whose life did not survive the struggle of beginning
but who is and will always be child of their flesh,
bone of their bone.
May they not be comfortless in the dark emptiness of
night, but let their troubled spirits rest by the quiet
waters of sorrow, where memory is healed,
dreams are restored,
and the reflection of N/their child is never lost. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Commendation

Into your arms Gracious God, we commend your child
N, complete and precious in your sight.
For s/he has known not the light nor the darkness of
this world but only the love in which s/he was made
and held.
As s/he travels from our longing to your care,
receive her/him on the clear shore of love's embrace
where there is no more death or sorrow or pain,
but only the joy of heaven's safe-keeping.
Enfold her/him in your peace this day
and for evermore. Amen.

(or)