

## Some Comments on Prayer

"Prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and God." Billy Graham

"Everyone prays in their own language, and there is no language that God does not understand." Duke Ellington

## Some Well Known Prayers

### The Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may  
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
It is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

### The Prayer of Ignatius of Loyola

Teach us, good Lord,  
to serve you as you deserve.  
To give and not to count the cost;  
to fight and not to heed the wounds;  
to toil and not to seek for rest;  
to labour and to look for no reward  
save that of knowing that we do your will  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly father,  
we have sinned against you and against our fellow men,  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life;  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

## **Prayer of St Patrick**

Christ be beside me,  
Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me,  
King of my heart.  
Christ be within me,  
Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me,  
Never to part.  
Christ on my right hand,  
Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me,  
Shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping,  
Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising,  
Light of my life.  
Christ be in all hearts thinking about me;  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me;  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me;  
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

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These prayers were taken from the Educhurch site at <http://www.echurch-uk.org/prayers.php> where there are other traditional examples available.