

## Memorial Day Prayers

### **"OUR DEAD" Memorial Verse of the Catholic War Veterans**

by Reverend Edward Lodge Curran

Our dead are not Unknown Soldiers.

We know who they are and wither they seek to go.

We know that some may languish in Purgatory until the last earthly stain is wiped away and until the last earthly injustice is repaired .

We also know that we can speed their passage from a Purgatory of shadow and pain to a Paradise of Happiness and light . We can hasten the dawn of eternal rest and the rays of perpetual light.

Our prayers and Masses and works of charity can assist our dead in gaining entrance into the blessedness of heaven.

We love our dead.

We can help our dead.

Let us pray for them always.

Flowers wither upon their graves.

A daily garland of prayers is better than an armful of roses.

As we approach the Golden Memorial hour of the Catholic War Veterans, Eleven o'clock,

Stand for a moment in silence and let there rise from your heart a prayer beseeching Almighty God, the Father of us all, to grant to the souls of our departed comrades, a peace and a glory that is theirs because of the sacrifice they made that other men might live.

### **PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY (LAST MONDAY IN MAY)**

God of power and mercy,  
you destroy war and put down earthly pride.  
Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears,  
that we may all deserve to be called your sons  
and daughters.

Keep in your mercy those men and women  
who have died in the cause of freedom  
and bring them safely  
into your kingdom of justice and peace.  
We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

### **Prayer for Memorial Day** by Education for Justice

*On this Memorial Day  
Grant peace to the souls  
of all those soldiers who died in war...*

On this Memorial Day  
Grant peace to the souls  
of all those soldiers who died in war.  
We remember the tears and grief of their families,  
The pain of mothers, wives, husbands and children  
Who lost precious loved ones.

To build a meaningful memorial to them,  
We ask God to give us all the will  
To work for peace around the world  
So no more sons, daughters, husbands, wives, fathers, nor  
mothers  
Are slaughtered by the guns and bombs of war.

We ask Mary, who held the lifeless body of her son  
And was pierced by the sorrow of his suffering and death,  
To grant us the compassion and wisdom to affirm life  
And honor the dead through forgiveness and peace making.

May God have mercy on the souls of the departed.  
Grant them peace, O Lord.

May we have mercy on the living.  
Grant us peace, O Lord.  
In Your name we pray.  
Amen.

### **Dear Heavenly Father,**

With a sober heart we come before You this Memorial Day.  
We pause for a moment and call to mind all the men and  
women who have died in the service of our nation since  
1776.

Dear God, please look with mercy on our brave and selfless  
brothers and sisters, who did not shirk from their task but  
gave themselves completely to the cause of defending and  
protecting us all. Bless all who have given their lives for the  
sake of liberty, and grant them eternal rest with You.

We remember also our brave men and women now serving in  
our Armed Forces, both at home and abroad. Dear God, send  
out Your angels to protect them all. Help them discharge their  
duties honorably and well. Please bring them safely home to  
their families and loved ones. Please bring Your peace and  
mercy to our troubled world.

We ask this, Father, in the name of Jesus, Your Son, our  
Savior and Lord. Amen.