

## Shared Petitions

You are invited to share your personal petitions at this time...

## Concluding Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for Your gift of silence –

For these moments now

And for other silent spaces You gave during the day.

We thank you for the gift of Yourself in peace,

And for the knowledge that You, whom we so easily neglect,

Are so wonderfully close and alive in our lives.

Bless us with the gift of silence,

Bless us with the gift of peace,

Bless us with the gift of each other.

--adapted from D. Harrington &  
J. Kavanagh, *Prayer for Parish Groups*

## A Blessing

May God bless you with unspeakable joy,  
not only in the world to come,  
but in this world also.

May your path be bright and full of light  
everywhere you go.  
May God tell darkness  
that it must flee at your command.

And, I pray your feet  
will never stumble out of God's plan.  
May the desires of your heart come true.  
And may you experience  
peace in everything you do.

May goodness, kindness,  
and mercy come your way.  
And may you gain wisdom  
and grow in the Lord everyday.

—Anon.



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# Gift of Silence, Gift of Peace



"I shall walk in the peace of  
my Lord and dwell in His  
house forever."

Tokio Megashio

## The Gift of Silence, The Gift of Peace



### Opening Prayer

Sometimes in a lonely cell  
In the presence of my God  
I stand and listen  
In the silence of my heart  
I can hear God's will  
When I listen.  
For I am but a servant  
Who is guided by my king.  
--St. Columba



*Listen in the silence of your heart...*

To deliver oneself up  
To hand oneself over  
Entrust oneself completely  
To a silence of a wide landscape  
Of woods and hills,  
Or seas,  
Or desert,  
To sit still  
while the sun comes up  
over the land  
and fills its silence with light.  
To pray and work  
in the morning,  
And to labour and rest  
in the afternoon,  
And to sit still again in meditation  
in the evening  
When night falls  
upon the land  
And when silence fills  
itself with darkness and with stars.  
This is a true and special vocation.

--Thomas Merton, *Thoughts In Solitude*

### A Modern Version of Psalm 23

**Reader:** The Lord is our pace setter - we shall not  
rush. You make us stop for quiet intervals.

**All:** You provide us with images of stillness that  
restore serenity.

### Reflection



**Reader:** He leads us in ways of  
efficiency through calmness of  
mind,

**All:** And Your guidance is peace.

**Reader:** Even though we have many  
things to accomplish each day, we  
will not fret,

**All:** For the presence of the Lord is  
here.

**Reader:** Your timelessness, will keep  
us in balance.

You prepare refreshment and renewal  
in the midst of our activities,

**All:** By anointing our minds with oils  
of tranquility.

**Reader:** Our cups of joyous energy  
overflows.

Truly harmony and effectiveness shall  
be the fruits of our hours,

**All:** For we shall walk in the peace of  
the Lord and dwell in Your house  
forever.

--Tokio Megashio

<http://www.elmstead.org/grapevine%20online.htm>

