

CENTRING PRAYER



Leaflet 2

CENTRING PRAYER

CENTRING PRAYER is simply sitting in silence, open to God's love and your love for God. This prayer is beyond thoughts, emotions, or sensations.

Like being with a very close friend or lover, where words are not required, Centring Prayer brings your relationship with God to a level deeper than conversation, to pure communion.

Because our minds are so attached to thinking, Father Thomas Keating sometimes suggests choosing a sacred word, with one or two syllables, "as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.

Then, sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly, and silently introduce your sacred word. . . . When you become aware of thoughts, return ever-so-gently to your sacred word. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes."

Two sessions of 20-30 minutes of Centring Prayer are recommended each day, but if that is too much for you, begin with five or ten minutes. Let go of all expectations or goals during this time.

It is not about achieving anything, whether emptying your mind or finding peace or achieving a spiritual experience.

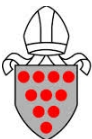
There is no way to succeed at Centring Prayer, except to return again and again to love. Allow thoughts to come and go without latching onto them, without judgment. "Ever-so-gently" bring your sacred word, the symbol of your intention, back to mind and return to resting in Presence.

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C ontemplative Prayer

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