

# Care for the Dying: A Practical and Pastoral Guide

Andrew Davison



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This wise and practical handbook, written by a palliative care physician and a priest with experience in hospice ministry, addresses the needs of the dying, their relatives and friends, and also those who provide support and care. Recognizing that these needs are physical, emotional, and spiritual, Care for the Dying draws on insights from current best practice in palliative care, pastoral experience, and theological reflection. It explores the following: -the availability of care for the dying person -communicating with the family - responding to a request for assisted suicide -forgiveness, reconciliation and anointing -saying goodbyes -the mystery of suffering -dying with dignity -supporting the bereaved -caring for the carers. Throughout, there is a helpful emphasis on understanding the care of the dying as a privilege as well as a responsibility, on the importance of proper self-care and of gaining strength from working as a team. Many people, including medical professionals and clergy, are fearful of what to say or do when faced with approaching death. This resource will deepen understanding and build courage and confidence.

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