

Can we actually help those in purgatory get out and into Heaven by our prayers?

Yes. The members of the Body of Christ are connected to each other (1 Cor. 12:14-26). The Church refers to three types of Christians: the Church Militant (those on earth, the living in the Church), the Church Triumphant (those saints in heaven), and the Church Suffering (those in purgatory). We are all part of the same mystical body of Christ, whether in heaven, on earth, or in purgatory.

(Remember that if we die in Christ and are not removed from his sanctifying grace we are spiritually alive and not among the dead/damned in hell.)

The Bible exhorts us to pray for one another (1 Tim. 2:1-4; 2 Mc 12:46). This prayer includes all members of the body, especially those in need. Those in purgatory are in special need because they cannot help themselves (CCC 958).

Our prayers, especially at Mass, relieve the suffering of the holy souls in purgatory (Jn. 5:16; CCC 1032). These souls are eternally grateful for our prayers and will remember us when they get to heaven (Rv. 6:9-10). If we get to purgatory, they will surely pray for us. Praying for the dead is an obligation for all Catholics, so keep up the good deed and practice. This is one reason why

When will the world end?

Scripture says no one except the Father in Heaven knows the time when the end will come (Mt. 24:36; CCC 673). We must not worry about it! When He comes in judgment, we best be found doing his work here on earth! We must not be found lazy and not evangelizing by how we live our lives.

Thank goodness I do not know the date because that would cause me and anyone I would tell tremendous anxiety and emotional stress! The only thing we know for sure is that it will happen at the appropriate time. It will happen when some goal of mankind has been achieved, according to apologist Frank Sheed in his book "Theology for Beginners". Sheed proposes it would be silly to think that God will suddenly lose patience with wayward mankind. When God created the world, He knew when it would end for he knows the past, present and the future!

The end will come when all who are to be incorporated into the Church are incorporated into it. The Church Militant will have fulfilled its purpose, which is the delivering of the Good News to all peoples and nations (Mt. 28:19)!

Be ready!

Will there be signs to tell us the world is going to end?

Scripture says there will be some signs we can look for, including a great apostasy ("or falling away") from the Catholic Church (2 Thess. 2:1-4, and the arrival of the Antichrist, who will be a man, not a demon (Dn. 11; CCC 675).

This Antichrist will be someone who is aided by Satan (Rv. 13:11-18).

As Christ had the prophet John the Baptist as his herald, the Antichrist will have the "false prophet" as his herald (Rv. 16:13-14, 19:20; CCC 676). Scripture also mentions a mass conversion of the Jewish people after they recognize Jesus as the Messiah for whom they waited (Rom. 11:26).