

## Latin in Church Sheet 12

### **Praying for the dead**

R.I.P.

is something you occasionally see on gravestones and in other places. People say it means "Rest in Peace".

Really it stands for the Latin:

|                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Requiescat in pace  | (May he/she) rest in peace    |
| Requiescant in pace | (May they) rest in peace      |
| Requiesco           | I rest                        |
| requiescit          | he/she rests                  |
| requiescat          | may he/she rest; let him rest |
| requiescant         | may they rest; let them rest  |
| in                  | in                            |
| pax, pacis, in pace | peace, of peace, in peace     |

### **Requiem: the first word of the mass for the dead**

## **Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine!**

|                           |                 |                          |                     |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Requies, requietis</b> | rest, of rest   | <b>aeterna, aeternae</b> | eternal, of eternal |
| <b>dono</b>               | I give, I grant | <b>eis</b>               | unto them           |
| <b>donal</b>              | grant!          | <b>Dominus</b>           | Lord, Master        |
| <b>donat</b>              | he grants       | <b>Domine</b>            | O Lord!             |

"Requiem" is in the *accusative case*. It has an 'm' at the end instead of an 's'. Say out loud: "Requies, requiem"

This is because it is the object of the verb "dona".

In English we usually put the object of the verb *after the verb*. In Latin it often comes before. Sometimes we translate the Latin phrase with the object first even in English.

"Aeternam" is in the accusative case too. It has an 'm' at the end, instead of just ending with 'a'. It is an adjective ('eternal') describing requies (rest), so it is in the same case as requies. Say out loud: "aeterna, aeternam".

Now look at the Latin and the translation below. Draw a line from the word in Latin to the word in English that belongs to that Latin word.

**Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine!**  
**Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord!**

Now re-write the prayer with the words in the order we usually use in English:

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Can you think of any reason why it would be better to put "rest" first in the sentence, like the Latin does?

*Now translate the next phrase:*

**Et lux perpetua luceat eis**

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### ***Vocabulary***

|          |           |            |                 |
|----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| et       | and       | lux, lucis | light, of light |
| perpetua | perpetual | luceat     | (let it) shine  |
| eis      | upon them |            |                 |

We might think that the dead close their eyes and are in endless darkness. As Christians we pray that instead of that, they will be in endless light, the light of eternal life.

Can you think of anything else that you would like to pray for, when you pray for the dead?