

For many years past now, one of the most regular and familiar voices on this programme of Nidday Prayers was that of the Rev. Dennis Rogers. Dennis died last Friday, on the World Day of Prayer, an annual date which both he and his wife keenly promoted. Together with his weekly radio programme "Crossroads", Dennis' voice reached thousands of appreciative listeners, of all religious persuasions and none. Today, for a man who helped so many others, (perhaps including you), to pray and to reflect on, and to appreciate the ways of God and His goodness and love, let us now pray.

... Lord Jesus, in your service the voice of your servant Dennis reached and touched so many hearts. In your goodness receive him into the company of your saints with you for ever, whose voice he listened to and followed in his earthly pilgrimage. Take him to your heart, Lord, and let the voice of your care and love be heard by those he has left behind him here, his family, his wide circle of friends and all who've heard him speak of you in his years of ministry. For so many people, Lord, your servant Dennis was but a voice heard on the radio, one among many others, but one which told of a man of joy and cheerfulness in your service, of dedication to you, of concern for all your people, ^{for} your church, a man who involved himself widely in the service of his fellow-men for your sake, Lord, and to bring your peace and love and fellowship to grow in our community. Now we will hear his voice no more, but may its echoes, its intimations of friendship and interest in all your people continue to resound in all our hearts, Lord, whose known and listened to your devoted servant over the years.

A prayer that Dennis was particularly fond of was the well-known 'Prayer for Peace'

of S. Francis of Assisi — may that prayer come its fruition in all of us who remember him as a friend and colleague. And let us especially remember in our prayers these days, Dennis' wife and family in their loss and bereavement. May they find the peace of Christ in God's will, joy in His service with whom Dennis now lives. For Dennis, the pilgrimage of his life has now passed the cross-roads of Christ's own going to His Father: it was a symbolism Dennis was fond of, those cross-roads he called his programme after. In the vision of God he now dwells, may his prayers and intercession help along their way those he has left behind, who are still joined with him in their love and their prayer. Let it be a reminder to all of us that we are on a pilgrimage towards Life, the joy of Easter. We pass many cross-roads on that pilgrimage, and pray that our choices may be the ones that lead us onwards, following the voice of Christ who calls and speaks to us in many ways on the road. Sometimes, like for those of us who listened yesterday to the gospel reading of the transfiguration of Christ, we get a glimpse of what is ahead, where we're going and destined to be. Sometimes, in the person of a friend we can find the same. So, today, for a prayer in music, I'd like to play another of Dennis Rogers' favourites — appropriate now, for him and for us who remain to pray for him. Christ has conquered, Christ reigns, Christ is Lord. It is the festive entrance hymn: *Entrata Festiva by Flor Peeters*

MUSIC (ANG. 0. 68)
PRAYERS