

“Let us pray for and with those whose lives have been touched by dementia”

Dear Friends

I warmly recommend to you Dementia – Prayer Week 12th – 19th March 2015. Dementia is a degenerative disease which tends to isolate both the sufferer and the families that surround them. Confronted with this condition we naturally feel inadequate.

Prayer is one very powerful way of connecting with all concerned. Let us pray for and with those whose lives have been touched by dementia. In this way we unite ourselves with them, forging a link with the Lord that words alone cannot express.

One of my own lasting links with my mother in her final months was to share with her the Hail Mary. Dementia had robbed her of many links with the past, but prayer endured as a living link to the end. Let this Dementia – Prayer Week become your link to the many families struggling with dementia.

Bishop David McGough
Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham and
Lead Bishop to the Pastoral Care Project

As I reflect on these words of Bishop David, I am reminded that whereas the ‘Hail Mary’ focuses on God and Mary’s response, the focus of the ‘Holy Mary’ is more than my response, it is also *our* response. It brings to mind many of the people over the last twenty five years who have been and some still are part of the mission of the Pastoral Care Project. Without their prayer, their time and their donations we would not have been able to have carried out our charitable work, for example, developing ‘Instructions for my Funeral Mass/ Pastoral Care of the Dying’ and the ‘Pastoral Companions’ programme all came about because of the faith expressed by people with dementia as well as the desire from people wanting to know how best to support them on their journey to God. They are the inspiration for Dementia – Prayer Week© 12th - 19th March 2015.

Each year Mass, Holy Hours and Days of Prayer are offered throughout the UK and Ireland, we appreciate the support from parishes and from the many schools who set aside time to pray a decade of the rosary and hold almsgiving events for our work. The Pastoral Care Project is reliant on your prayer and donations for the continuity of our ministry in the church.

Our new Prayer Leaflet offers prayers, intentions and information enabling everyone to join in the week. A small supply will be sent to parishes; if you would like a Prayer Leaflet please send a stamp addressed envelope to the address below and a small donation to cover costs.

The Prayer Leaflet and a variety of resources can be downloaded from our website www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk. Please let us know the date and time of your prayer/almsgiving event or how you will be joining in Dementia – Prayer Week© 12th -19th March 2015 and we will promote it on our website. This is important for those who may be visiting our website searching for a time of prayer near to where they live. Our telephone number is 01675 434035 or email francesmolloy@pastoralcareproject.org.uk. Donations can be sent to Pastoral Care Project, St George's House, Gerards Way, Coleshill, B46 3FG.