

National Week of Prayer and Awareness of Dementia 12th – 19th March 2013

This year's Week of Prayer and Awareness of Dementia takes place from 12th March -19th March 2013. The response last year was so encouraging and it is hoped that again this year each day there will be times of prayer at cathedrals and churches throughout the UK and Ireland.

Introducing the forthcoming week Bishop McGough, lead Bishop for the Pastoral Care Project said, *"I am pleased to commend the national week of prayer and awareness of dementia. Few of us can imagine the isolation, and consequent anxiety, that this affliction brings both to those who suffer and their families. Through prayer let us ground ourselves in our communion with the Lord, making ourselves one with the many who suffer and those who care for them."*

Many parishes, schools and organisations joined in for 2012; through offering Mass, exposition and prayers - over 40,000 Prayer cards were distributed throughout the UK and Ireland. Cardiff diocese alone purchased 10,000 cards for their parishes and schools. In addition, many people of all ages were inspired to pray and several held fund raising events. This was a positive way for people to pray and talk about dementia sensitively and at the same time support the work of the Pastoral Care Project.

To help parishes, schools and care homes join in this year's Week, Prayer Cards will again be available to purchase. Orders need to be placed now to assist with the printing and distribution so that everyone receives their prayer cards in good time. The order form and prices are available to download from the Pastoral Care Project website or by contacting the office on 01675 434035.

Frances Molloy, Project Manager wishes to thank everyone who gave their support last year and is hoping even more people will take part in this important Week of Prayer in 2013. *"Whether you purchase Prayer Cards, host a 'Yellow Day' or 'Bake and Share' you will be helping to raise awareness and engage with families where a loved one is affected by dementia. At the same time you will be supporting the work of the Pastoral Care Project"*. Donations can be made via PayPal on the Donation page of the Pastoral Care Project website or sent direct to the Pastoral Care Project office.

In the Birmingham Diocese, Bishop David McGough will be celebrating Mass on Wednesday 13th March at 11.00am at Our Lady of the Angels Church, Nuneaton; children from Our Lady of the Angel's Infant School and St Joseph's Junior school will be involved with the music and prayers.

Please get in touch and let us know what your parish or school are organising? Visit our website for resources and ideas – we would also love you to share your prayers and ideas with us.

For further information please contact Frances Molloy, Project Manager at the Pastoral Care Project, St Gerard's, Coventry Road, Coleshill, B46 3ED, telephone 01675 434035, www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk email info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk