

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release – 29th February 2016

Birmingham Bishop invites people to pray for dementia sufferers and their families during National Dementia Prayer Week (12-19 March 2016)

Bishop David McGough, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham says:

“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.

“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.”

“Let us remember that whatever we do must flow from the mercy of God that alone transforms our hearts, enabling us to reach out with a compassionate love, making us channels of his mercy.

Let this Dementia – Prayer Week become your link to the many families struggling with dementia.”

The National Dementia Prayer Week 12-19th March 2016, in its seventh year is spearheaded by the Pastoral Care Project. It is the Pastoral Care Project’s annual appeal for prayer and for almsgiving- vital for the continuity of its charitable work.

Recent statistics indicate that there are over 820,000 people in the UK with dementia and an estimated 40,000 are younger people.

The Pastoral Care Project team has drawn inspiration from Bishop David’s words, the Year of Mercy Prayer to provide resources for individuals and parishes and schools. It is clear from parishes and schools visited that a considerable number of people have elderly, and younger relatives whose lives are affected by dementia. It is also becoming an issue in the workplace because people are requiring more flexible working to take on caring roles for their parents or spouse.

Charity Manager, Frances Molloy said the demand in parishes is increasing and with limited resources the opportunity from Alive Publishing to include the Dementia Prayer in Walk with Me Lent 2016 has helped make the prayer available nationally. A new Information Pack is available online. This work was helped to be made possible with a grant for the Day for Life grants scheme. ‘Day for Life’ is the day in the Catholic Church’s year dedicated to celebrating and upholding the dignity of human life. For more information please visit www.dayforlife.org.” - Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

The Pastoral Care Project is reliant on donations for the continuity of its charitable work.

“We appeal to you to make use of the on-line resources and consider being a promoter in where you live. www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk For those who are planning prayer and almsgiving event please telephone 01675 434035 or email us info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk.”