

## PRESS RELEASE

The national Dementia Prayer Week© 12-19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 organised by the Pastoral Care Project is an invitation to everyone to pray for and with those who live among us with dementia. This is the Pastoral Care Project's annual appeal for prayer and for almsgiving which is vital for the continuity of our charitable work – to be here for those who contact us for resources and support.

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

Bishop David McGough Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham and Lead Bishop to the Pastoral Care Project writes: *“Dear Friends, I warmly recommend to you **Dementia – Prayer Week 12 – 19<sup>th</sup> 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.”*

The Pastoral Care Project team has drawn inspiration from Bishop David's letter to produce the new Prayer Leaflet to raise awareness of the importance of including faith and religious traditions in the care that people with dementia receive. The Prayer Leaflet is specially designed for those who may be looking to provide pastoral initiatives to benefit the person who has dementia and those who care for them. It is clear from the churches and schools we have visited that a considerable number of people have elderly relatives whose lives are affected by dementia. It is also becoming more prevalent in the workplace that people are having to take on caring roles themselves, whether it is for a parent or their spouse.

Therefore, we appeal to you to commit to one of the dates to hold a service and make use of the on-line resources [www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk](http://www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk) For those who are planning an almsgiving event please telephone 01675 434035 or email us [info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk](mailto:info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk) to request an information pack.

Charity Manager, Frances Molloy said, “We are thankful to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Day for Life Fund and donations from carers to cover the cost of printing the new Prayer Leaflet. The Pastoral Care Project is reliant on donations for the continuity of its charitable work.”

To receive a printed copy of the Prayer Leaflet please send a stamped addressed envelope with a donation to cover costs to Mrs Frances Molloy, Project Manager, Pastoral Care Project, St George's House, Gerards Way, Coleshill B46 3FG