

## **PRESENTER**

The Pastoral Care Project is an independent charity, with its own trustees and volunteers. It is supported by the RC Diocese of Birmingham and responsible for its own finance. The Catholic Bishops Conference Day for Life has funded this initiative with schools.

### **Pastoral Care Project History**

It may be helpful as a first time reader to know of the Pastoral Care Projects' beginnings.

The Project began in 1995, as a result of Frances Molloy now manager, meeting with a lady in an EMI (Elderly and Mentally Infirm) Ward at the local George Eliot Hospital in Nuneaton, while visiting as a church volunteer in 1989. The lady had a form of dementia but was also blind and yet seemed to have an awareness which captured Frances' attention.

At the time Frances was training as a Spiritual Director (Light Out Of Darkness – Sr Kathleen O'Sullivan SSL) and the theme of the programme that particular week was 'finding God in my weakness'- the relevant scripture being Romans 8.26-27. This lady with dementia made Frances aware how special and unique each person is and that weakness can be strength.

The lady visited was instrumental in this Project taking off because no-one had recognised that she too had a spiritual life, which was overlooked on medical assessment. Frances never knew the lady's name; the lady could not remember what it was – and yet she had this great awareness of God and others.

Since 1994 the Project has pioneered spiritual and faith support and now provides training to Care providers and with parishes wishing to set up their own parish care projects. The Project has contributed nationally in DVD's and resources.

### **Notes for the PowerPoint Slides**

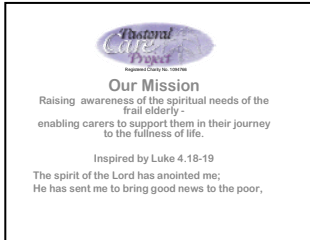
*These slides are about 12-15 minutes which allows two short stories which we provide or you may wish to interact more with students.*



*This slide can be projected whilst pupils are gathering*

## Slide 1

**Objective = Welcome and introduction and initial awareness of the charity.**



*This slide describes the Pastoral Care Project Mission and the scripture which enables it .*

- Today we are going to hear about the work of the Pastoral Care Project Charity.

*Read the scripture on the Slide. This slide may incorporate the initial faith element of the assembly.*

*The Holy Spirit. Anointing...being sent/asked by o help others.*

*Interact with pupils. What do you think the work poor means....without oney...food...sic...the word poor c mean all of us...*



and



## Slide 2

***Objective = Encourage awareness and feeling and thinking***

- Pope Francis
- Let us think of people we personally know who live with serious illness. Encourage interaction about illness which may have or is affecting them or their family.

Then move to the next slide - slide b of this objective.

Picture of Pope John Paul II

Who had Parkinson's Disease which affected his physical movements and his memory, yet his faith was so alive.

Encourage thinking about how his faith was active and his love of people so inspiring.

1<sup>st</sup> May is a special day where he is being canonised.

## Slide 3

***Objective = Awareness of others, dependency, belonging and recognition that each of us is special and individual***



- Babies tell us how they feel without words, through crying, smiling...
- As the baby grows into a toddler they begin to remember more and can do things independently, for example remembers where the chocolates are kept. (you may be giving chocolate up for lent)
- As the toddler grows into a child it begins to remember names and words and in no time at all is going to school and learning like all of you.
- ( optional depending on year group Let us name the baby. The baby has an identity, a sense of belonging )
- All of us are interdependent on others.
- Engage with pupils about age restrictions, parents wanting to protect their children from harm or harmful influences.
- Story : A Pastoral Care Project volunteers caring role began when she was just thirteen. Her mother, was knocked down by a car and suffered physical and psychological pain, which meant this young mother was unable to care for her children and so our Project volunteer was the child who took on the role of caring for her siblings. She found those teenage years very difficult not being able to go out with her friends as she had to look after the family. However this person overcame all of that and even her dyslexia wasn't an obstacle to her joining the theatre. She is still caring for her mother who is now in her 80's . She struggles to come to terms with her mother being cared for by strangers, for everyone in the care home is a stranger to her mother who dementia. Yet she knows that the best care is being offered and that visiting her mum can fill her with mixed emotions and she is often surprised by how lucid her mother is and being a mother to this daughter who loves her dearly.

## Slide 4

**Objective = Awareness of our memories and how we cherish them**



- Does anyone remember a holiday at the seaside? What do you remember (*prompt towards memories involving the Senses – hear, smell, touch, see, taste*).
- These experiences are stored in our memory. We often look back over photographs and think about particular experiences.
- Our memory helps us every day in doing day to day tasks that we don't even think about....getting up...dressed...eating...getting to school...remembering what we need for lessons... (*adjust accordingly*)

## Slide 5

**Objective = Understanding Dementia through memory awareness**



- What items do you have to remember to bring with you to school? (*Pictures of Pencil case, books, PE/Swimming Kit, Money, Homework and Lunch*) Allow time of their suggestions – then click six times for all the pictures on the slide to compare.
- Have you ever forgotten to bring something you need? It doesn't feel nice when you forget something, does it. How does it make you feel?
- Sometimes when people are older they develop an illness that makes them forget things. **This illness is called Dementia.** They can forget simple day to day things that we take for granted, such as how to get dressed, hold a pen or use a telephone. How to do day to day tasks. What did I say the illness was called?

**Slide 6**

***Objective = Explaining what the Pastoral Care Project Charity does.***



- The Pastoral Care Project Charity helps parishes set up their own projects to support people with dementia.
- The projects that are set up can include visiting people with dementia to sing and pray with them. People with dementia are often able to remember their favourite hymns and prayers and they find comfort in them. The support groups also give support to Carers.
- Do you know anyone who is caring for someone with dementia.
- Have any of you made your first Holy Communion or is going to soon? You will know how special that is. When Jesus said 'Do this in memory of me', he is reassuring us that he is always present. So we need to remind people with dementia this too.

**Slide 7**

**Objective = Continued information on what the Pastoral Care Project Charity does.**

Annual Mass and  
Anointing of the Sick



- Every year since 2003 the Pastoral Care Project has organised for Nuneaton parishes a day for the sick to be anointed. Afterwards there is lunch and a short time of entertainment which involves children sharing their artistic talents. Singing/Dancing.
- To end the occasion people return to the church for a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, where people with DEMENTIA find great peace.
- Days like these help to support families who are caring for their loved one ALL DAY EVERY Day –they become very tired and without any support very lonely. Often they are ill themselves and don't know how to keep caring.

**Slide 8 Objective = Work in schools and hymn.**

As the Father has loved me,  
so I have love you.



- This picture is from an assembly on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Coleshill Church of England Primary School. We were reminding the children that people with dementia remember God and God will never forget them. Follow with the gospel and the poem.



Gospel John 13 1-15 – washing of the feet

The Water of your Blessing

Do not kneel, My Lord.  
It is for me to kneel  
At your feet.  
With your loving hands you  
Touch my feet...  
Loving, gentle hands  
Which made those who ail and hurt  
Whole and well.  
You washed your feet with  
Water cool and soothing...  
The water of your  
Blessings  
You dried my feet with  
Linen pure; and gentleness.  
But infinitely you washed  
My heart...  
A heart 'oft grieved and saddened.  
You drew me close and called me Son,  
And filled me with your grace,  
Your great Amen

M. Cauchi –Pastoral Care Project©

Continue with this hymn inspired from the gospel because a woman with dementia found the singing so beautiful and felt so close to God.

As I have loved you.  
© Pastoral Care Project

I have loved - you, loved - you, as the  
Fa - ther loves me -

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It features three staves of music. The first staff is the vocal line, the second is the piano accompaniment, and the third is a bass line. The lyrics are written below the notes. There is a small image of a yellow flower in the top right corner of the slide.

## Slide 9

**Objective = Awareness of National Week of Prayer and Awareness of Dementia, Prayer and close.**

Day of Prayer for Dementia©

"I am very pleased to commend the Day of Prayer for Dementia on 19th March. It is a way of highlighting the daily struggle that many people experience just to keep going on life's path and it is a good opportunity for us to ask Our Lord to strengthen them on their pilgrimage of faith. It is also a way of encouraging each of us to be a support and understanding friend to those who experience dementia and those who take care of them."  
Archbishop Bernard Longley

[www.dayofprayerfordementia.org.uk/Schools](http://www.dayofprayerfordementia.org.uk/Schools)

The slide has a black header with the text 'Day of Prayer for Dementia©' in yellow. Below the header is a small image of a yellow flower. The main body of the slide is white with black text. At the bottom, there is a URL.

- The **National Week of Prayer and Awareness of Dementia** March 12- 19th - is the initiative of the Pastoral Care Project and is growing throughout the country and abroad.

## Slide 10

HAVE A 'YELLOW DAY'

- Wear something yellow – hair band...socks, more ideas.
- Sell yellow cupcakes.
- Any other ideas?
- Don't forget to pray.

The slide has a solid yellow background. At the bottom left, there is a small circular logo with the text 'Pastoral Care Project'.

**Yellow slide overview of the Day of Prayer – YELLOW Day**

**HAVE a Yellow Day Pray and Give Alms**

- With your help we could get everyone involved. Last year we had over 500 visits to our website from America, Australia, Philippines, France and Germany to name a few. Perhaps you have friends and relatives perhaps you could ask

them to visit the website and get involved. You must ask your parents permission before emailing .

- The Prayer and a poem – My Grandparents will be available through the website [www.dayofprayerfordementia.org.uk](http://www.dayofprayerfordementia.org.uk)
- This year your school will be..... and will raising fund for the work of the Pastoral Care Project.
- You may wish to adopt the Pastoral Care Project as one of your charities. You might wish to visit a care setting near to you and enjoy the company of someone else's grandparents who love to have visits from children, whether it is singing, drama
- This year, the Pastoral Care Project has written a special prayer to help us to pray for people with dementia.

## Slide 11



- Let us pray together...sit quietly and still and be aware of your own breathing.... Allow your breathing to become gentle....still your mind ready to listen.
- This will be a moment which may be stored deep in your heart (*adjust prayer time to suit*)

Lord, thank you for your presence this moment, holding us in your love.  
Help us to share your love with those who live among us with dementia,  
that we may see your beauty in them.

Amen

- Thank you for praying, sharing and caring for people with dementia and their families.