

PASTORAL CARE PROJECT CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham



Inspired by the gospel of Luke 4.18-19 *"The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor."*

We wish to thank you for supporting our mission these last twenty five years.

During this time we trained volunteer teams who led Services of the Word and Music in Care Homes: Ministry to the Sick and the Dying resulted in producing the My Funeral Mass document - see overleaf.

We led days of reflection for carers and organised annual mass for the housebound, gave assemblies and talks.

Below are a few of our main resources:

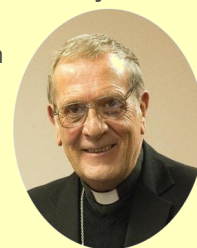
- Dementia Prayer Week 12-19th March has become a national annual event.
- HeARTs & Minds Volunteer programme, schools lesson plans and videos.
- My Funeral Mass now revised with Care of the Sick page-more overleaf.

'Poverty has many Faces' Bishop David McGough

"In a recent letter Pope Francis reminded us that, far from standing above the poor, we are their debtors, since it is in reaching out to the poor that the gospel becomes more than words. It becomes a saving encounter with the Lord himself.

Poverty has many faces, one of which is dementia in all its forms. Here that most precious possession, a sense of self and belonging, begins to crumble. In reaching out to those suffering with dementia, and to their families, they assert that all, regardless of wealth of poverty, need to be loved and included. I encourage all both to join and support this service to the poor."

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



Bishop David will offer his Mass for your intentions on 24th December, praying especially for the gift of peace for those who suffer with dementia and those who care for

"Born in Bethlehem" Frances Molloy

During a recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I decided not to join the pilgrims one day, due to ill-health. I wasn't sure what the day was going to hold for me, alone in the Manger Hotel in Bethlehem. I was contented and went for breakfast, and during a conversation with the chef, everything changed when he said, *"I was born in Bethlehem"*. Those words resonated with me, I wanted to be born in Bethlehem too - I had to go to Mass. Far from being alone I experienced the most wonderful retreat day in Bethlehem which I had longed for, and it happened, simply because of the earlier conversation.

The difference between being born in Bethlehem and being born in Christ Jesus is explained more powerfully in the '**Dementia - New Creation**' video by the late Monsignor Paul Watson, STL MA (Ed) *more information overleaf.*

Christmas card image is from my day in Bethlehem, download from website event page.



All at the Pastoral Care Project wish you a Happy Christmas and through the closeness of the Christ Child may you, your family, friends and those you meet, feel the Father's Love.

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Mrs Frances Molloy - Project Manager p/t
Mrs Joanne Metcalfe - Assistant Administration p/t

Students :

Joe Carter
Ella Carolan

Pastoral Care Project, St George's House, Gerrards Way, Coventry Road, Coleshill B46 3FG • Tel: 01675 434035

Email: info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk • www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk



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