

The Dementia *family* Ministry Prayer Card marks 25 years of the Pastoral Care Project's charitable work.

It coincides with Dementia Prayer Week 12-19th March – a national, annual event enabling parishes and schools around the country and elsewhere to use the online resources to participate. For example, the new word search activity is a reminder of the difficulty the individual with dementia may experience in searching for the right word to say.

With an estimated 800,000 individuals in England and Wales affected in various ways by dementia, this New Dementia *family* Ministry Prayer Card, sponsored by Day for Life Fund, offers hope. Hope comes from the prayers by Archbishop Bernard Longley and Bishop David McGough, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, that may inspire more people to *be* a blessing to the poor.

“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. To the onlooker it can sometimes seem that the sufferer is dispossessed of everything that makes us truly human.

It is a poverty that cannot be contained. Husbands and wives, parents and children, must suffer the loss of so much that gave meaning to their mutual sharing.” Bishop David McGough,
<https://www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk/news.html>

The annual, national Dementia Prayer Week, (12-19th March) in its eleventh year, is an opportunity to create a sense of purpose and meaning. Our hope is that the new prayer card will encourage people visit a care home or family and equip them once they are there. You may just be the answer to a person's prayer: “*God help me*” a familiar cry of the poor, which can be our prayer too!

The prayer of the Pastoral Care Project is that in our own poverty at present and are grateful for the support of we receive from parishes, schools and organisations who work with us. We are so pleased to have worked with Redemptorist Publications this last year, for their collaboration on the design and generosity in making this card available from their website. <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk>

“Redemptorist Publications' mission is to support people at every stage of Christian life so working with the Pastoral Care Project is the perfect partnership for us! Learning about the work that they have been carrying

out for 25 years and the success of Dementia Prayer Week has been both inspiring and encouraging. We hope our small contribution will help this mission to grow even further and help more people.” Giselle Beaumont, Redemptorist Publications

The profits from the sale of the card will help the Pastoral Care Project support those who contact the office.

Individuals and organisations may wish to be creative by using the Bake and Share or various resources from our website or <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/charity/pastoral-care-project> .

The Pastoral Care Project is a small charity, with its roots in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, UK, but offshoots have taken root in many dioceses, some overseas; as with anything that is planted it takes different shape according to soil and climate. That is how connections in various areas have grown according to their local needs and traditions.

For further information contact: info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk or 01675 434035

Website: www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk

Twitter: @adementiaaprayer

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pastoralcareproject>

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