

## Care of the Sick & Dying

For anyone who is being assessed for formal care this document will help ensure that their needs as a catholic are noted - reducing some of the worry and anxiety. Below is just one example of the difference made to the lives of two people.

### **"It felt beautiful"**

The words **"It felt beautiful"** were spoken by one lady who had received support from the Pastoral Care Project. Her husband who had Alzheimer's Disease was moved into a care home outside the Birmingham Diocese. Spiritual care, being an important part of his life, wasn't in place in the care home, and so the lady contacted the Pastoral Care Project for help. The Project provided information and also contacted the parish near to the care home on her behalf. Subsequently, the parish Deacon or Eucharistic Ministers went to the care home regularly so both she and her husband could receive Holy Communion together.

However, as her husband became more frail there were new concerns - what might happen as he approached the end of his life? What pastoral care would be available within his faith tradition? How could those last weeks, days and hours of his life be meaningful? The Pastoral Care Project was able to meet with her, to listen and to guide, and so she was able to make their wishes known to the care home manager so that plans were put in place.

As her husband's illness advanced and he lost the sense of speaking; she said, *"she had no doubt that from the countenance of her husband's face that he knew the Lord was present each time the deacon came with Holy Communion - it felt beautiful."*



Email [info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk](mailto:info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk)

## Reflection

### **'It's almost evening'**

*The Holy Spirit, our helper is with us in our weakness, When we do not know or remember how to pray the Spirit prays for us and through us to God, who knows and understands all our needs.*

Romans 8:v26-27 adapted

**Pope Francis reminded Christians to ask for the grace of memory so that "they will not forget that the Lord has saved them."**

Homily and the Holy Spirit 15th May 2013 Pope Francis



### **Prayer of Blessed John Henry Newman**

*May He support us all the day long,  
till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over,  
and our work is done.*

*Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging,  
and a holy rest and peace at last. Amen*



Registered Charity No: 1094766

[www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk](http://www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk)

## OUR MISSION

*Raising awareness of the spiritual needs of the frail elderly – enabling carers to support them in their journey to the fullness of life.*



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## **Pastoral Care of the Sick and Instructions for My Funeral Mass<sup>®</sup>**

*"By reflecting on the goodness of the Lord and the bright promise of immortality, we are helped so much in our considerations of our own dying and the care that we would like others to take in expressing that faith at that time. Indeed our hope is that by doing so they too will be strengthened in their faith and in the consolation it brings."*

Extract from **His Eminence Vincent Gerard Cardinal Nichols**  
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

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