

PRAYER STATIONS

CATECHIST NOTES

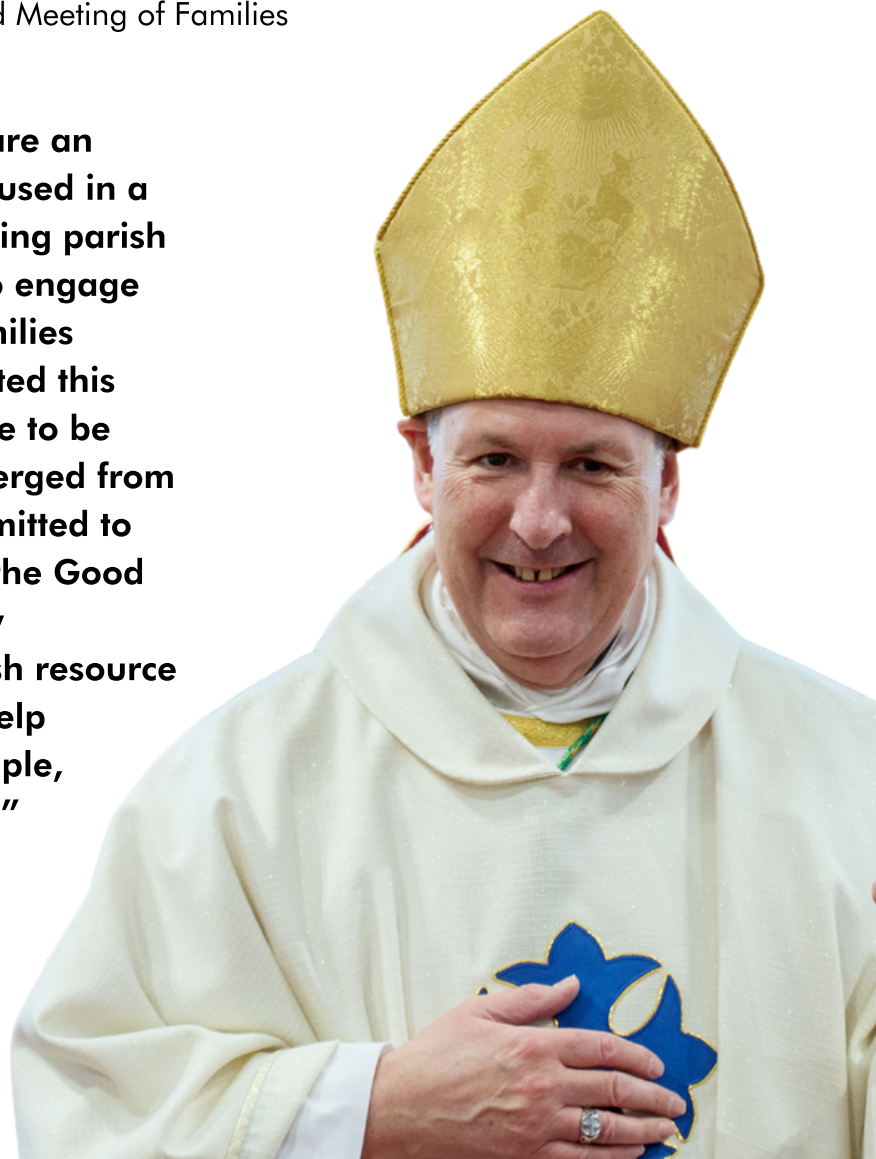
‘From June 22 – 26, 2022, each diocese will place families at the centre of pastoral attention, carrying out activities that reflect the theme of the World Meeting of Families.’

10th World Meeting of Families

"The CELEBRATE Prayer Stations are an excellent resource which may be used in a variety of different settings, assisting parish families across the generations to engage in the 10th World Meeting of Families Catechesis. Those who have created this highly recommended resource are to be congratulated. This work has emerged from faith-filled families who are committed to living the Gospel and to sharing the Good News with other families. I highly recommend this CELEBRATE parish resource which is accessible and aims to help evangelise and catechise in a simple, inclusive and family friendly way."

Bishop David J Oakley

Chair of the CBCEW Committee
for Marriage and Family Life



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The Aim of the CELEBRATE Prayer Stations

The CELEBRATE Prayer Stations have been created by the CELEBRATE Catholic Family Ministry as a response to the 10th World Meeting of Families (WMOF), June 2022. CELEBRATE wishes to make these Prayer Stations available to every parish and diocese to celebrate this event. These Prayer Stations can be used at any time of the year, but they're specifically written to support the 10th World Meeting of Families which takes place this year.

Our suggestion is this resource is used as part of a parish event for families and the wider parish community. Following the Sunday Mass, you might consider hosting a picnic or a social gathering at the parish. These interactive prayer stations encourage participation from all members of the community and can be set up and available during this event within the church and hall/grounds. The WMOF Pastoral Kit suggests the Pope's Angelus could be followed live or rebroadcasted, before or after Holy Mass. There are prayer intentions and homily suggestions for Holy Mass on Sunday 26th June, 2022 in the WMOF Pastoral Kit.



The CELEBRATE Prayer Stations have been developed primarily for children to be accompanied by a mix of parents/carers, grandparents, catechists and parishioners, to travel together in small groups from station to station to create an interactive prayer journey. We do recommend adults accompany the children to get the most from the prayer times and to read the stations to the children in their group.

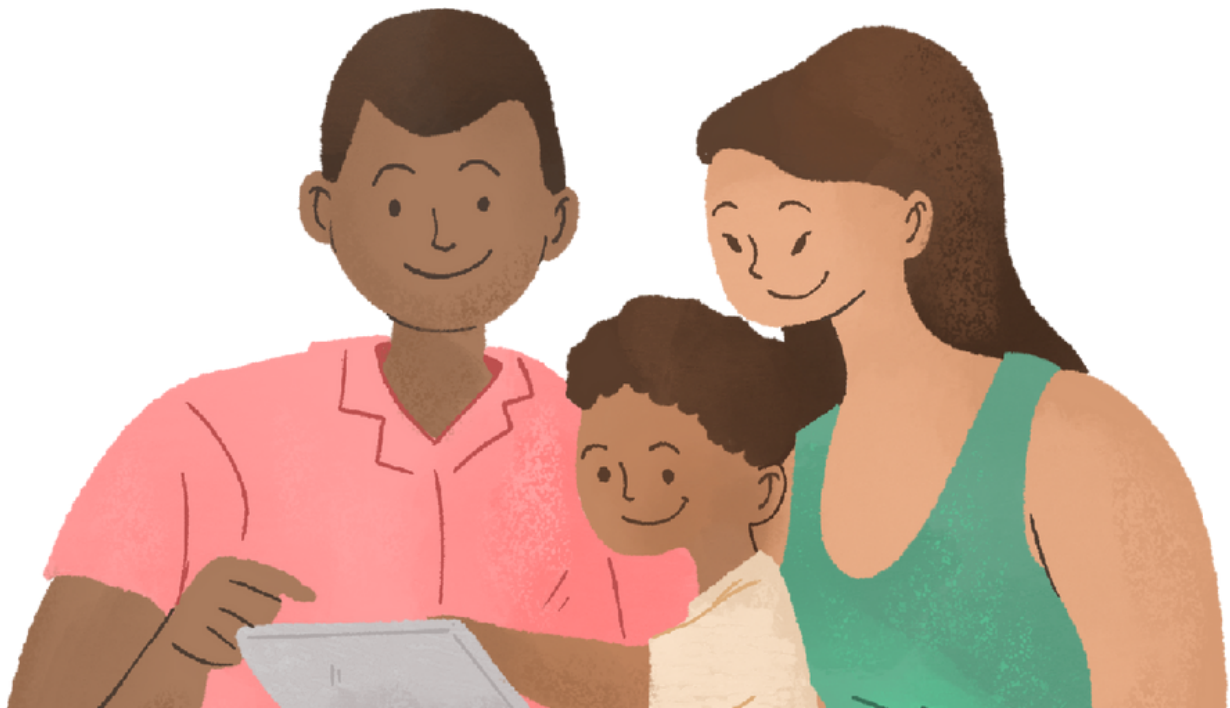
The content is based on Scripture and Church teaching on the family, echoing some of the themes from the 10th World Meeting of Families 2022 documents. They have been developed to be as engaging and inclusive as possible, and provide discovery and formation elements to evangelise and catechise and help build family and the church community.

CELEBRATE has created 12 Prayer Stations, however parishes are free to decide how many they would like to set up given the space and time available.

You may find the following link helpful. It contains the documents from Rome to help Catholics engage with WMOF this June:

[Click here to be redirected to the documents](#)

or visit romefamily2022.com/en/wmof-diocesi



Preparation Notes

- 1. Choose how many Prayer Stations you will use at your parish**
- 2. There are two options for your families to access the Prayer Stations:**
 - Print out each set of Prayer Station instructions on two sides of card, preferably in colour, OR**
 - Print out the QR code on a separate page for families to download the Prayer Stations via a mobile phone which is at the end of this document. Remember to clearly number your prayer stations in the church/church hall/church grounds so families can correctly identify the prayer stations online.**
- 3. Collect together all the equipment you will need - you may need to order some in advance, or ask your parishioners to help provide through a request in the newsletter**
- 4. We suggest you set up a small team to help you collate everything and arrange the Prayer Stations on the day. Your team can test out the stations to check they have everything needed**
- 5. We suggest you have a box of spare equipment to top up the stations, and someone nearby to replenish if needed**
- 6. You'll notice we have a 'MOMENT FOR ALL' on some of the Prayer Stations. This is where we're aiming to make the stations as accessible as we can for those with any additional learning requirements. Some Prayer Stations don't require a 'MOMENT FOR ALL' as the activities are accessible already**
- 7. You'll notice sometimes we have included an Optional Reflection for adults or teenagers. These are to help them engage more fully, and contain possible suggestions for further prayer**

The scripture translation is from the New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised Catholic Edition.

LINKS & EQUIPMENT

Below is a list of the 12 CELEBRATE Prayer Stations. Each CELEBRATE Prayer Station draws on one of the WMOF documents - either from the Catechesis Documents or from the Pastoral Kit. There is also a list of equipment needed for each of the Stations.

1. We belong to the Family of God.

2. Jesus took our place.

3. God calls us by name

4. We need each other

5. The elderly are our treasure.

6. A family that forgives

7. For those who need God's healing

8. Praying with Neighbourhood Saints

9. Our World Wide Family

10. The Family is called to Mission.

11. We give our worries to God

12. For our Family in Heaven

At the bottom of this document you will find a separate page with a QR code. This can be printed out and placed at the church entrance to enable participants to access instructions for each of the Prayer Stations on their mobile phones.

1 We belong to the Family of God.



This Prayer Station reminds us that we've been baptised into the family of God, His Church. We are all loved by God and belong to Him and to one another.

“For each person, God’s first calling is to become His children through the Sacrament of Baptism” WMOF 22 - Catechesis 2

Location: In the church - by the baptismal font

Equipment:

- Instructions printed out (or accessed online)
- Holy Water in font or water stoup by church entrance*
- Large cross in card or wood
- Felt tips
- White sticky labels

Optional idea and equipment:

Make a sign to invite families to fill up a little bottle with holy water to take home with them.

*At the time of writing, current Covid advice allows for holy water stoups to be filled, see <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/>

If you do not have a supplier, you might find this one helpful - <https://www.cenacle.co.uk/holy-water-containers>

You could use the following wording for CELEBRATE Prayer Station 1:

Fill up a little bottle with holy water. When you get home, place it by your front door so you can bless yourselves when you go out for the day.

2 Jesus took our place.

This Prayer Station reminds us that Jesus died for us on the cross out of great love for us.

“When reading the Bible, on several occasions, it is obvious that God continually calls men and women in various ways to establish a relationship with Him and to welcome Him into their lives. Today the Father calls us to follow Jesus, because through Him we are given a life in which death is conquered by Christ; a life that, regardless of all the difficulties, is worth living because it leads towards eternal life. With the strength that comes from the Holy Spirit, we can respond to God’s calling, which is unique to each of us.” WMOF 22 - Catechesis 1



Location: In the church - near a crucifix

Equipment:

- Instructions printed out (or accessed online)
- Crucifix - parishioners could be directed to look at one by the altar
- Colour copy of Christ is our bridge to heaven by Elizabeth Wang - <https://www.radiantlight.org.uk/images/image/483?search=salvation&searchType=images> - the images are free for use for non-commercial purposes, see <https://www.radiantlight.org.uk/copyright-policy/>
- Little straight twigs/sticks or lollipop sticks
- String
- Scissors
- **MOMENT FOR ALL:** alternative activity equipment: paper, sticky gummed paper cut into squares.



3 God calls us by name.

This Prayer Station reminds us that we are created by God and He calls us by name into a relationship with Him. Marriage and family life is also a call from God, and so we pray for our families, our parents and any young people that we support.

“Some people who are baptised are called to give their lives to God through consecration as priests or religious; others are called to give themselves to the Lord through the Sacrament of Matrimony. Married life, therefore, is also a vocation, that is, a call from God.” WMOF 22 - Catechesis 1

Location: In the church - by a bench/seat

Equipment:

- Instructions printed out (or accessed online)
- People paper chains - pre cut or a template provided
- Felt tips
- Childrens and adult scissors
- Left handed scissors (helps makes accessible to all)
- Paper

4 We need each other.



This Prayer Station reminds us that we are all loved by God. We are needed and have a place in the church community.

“It is terrible and distressing to feel we are not needed, even not being chosen for a team when we were children, or being chosen last, as if we were a rebound.

But, if we think that we have been chosen and called all along, then being in God's heart frees us from the anxiety and assures us that we have been rooted all along in a love that comes "before" everything else.”

“What might it mean, concretely speaking, to make sure that everyone in our community feels needed?” WMOF 22 - Catechesis no 4

Location: In the church

Equipment:

- Instructions printed out (or accessed online)
- Duplo blocks (you can borrow/buy cheaper versions)
- Small pieces of paper
- Sticky tape
- Pencils or felt tips

5 The elderly are our treasure.



This Prayer Station reminds us of the value of the elderly people in our Church and within the community so that we will treasure them for who they are.

“The prayer of grandparents and of the elderly is a great gift for the Church, it is a treasure! A great injection of wisdom for the whole of human society: above all for one which is too busy, too taken, too distracted.”

Pope Francis, General Audience 2015, in WMOF 22 - Catechesis no 6.

Location: In the church (or hall if glue is used)

Equipment:

- Instructions printed out (or accessed online)
- Box decorated as a ‘treasure chest’
- Circles of gold/coloured card as ‘treasure’ (big enough for a name and a few jewels to be stuck on)
- Pens
- Self adhesive acrylic jewels or sequins plus glue (see suggested resources below)

Some suggested equipment links: <https://www.bakerross.co.uk/self-adhesive-acrylic-jewels>,
<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/coloured-sequins>



A family that forgives.

This Prayer Station reminds us of the importance of love and mercy in the family home, and explores how saying thank you, sorry and please can be part of daily family life.

“May I, thank you and pardon me, are three very simple words that guide us in taking very concrete steps along the path of holiness and in growing in love. Besides, they were words typical of the style of Jesus Christ, who asks permission to enter, who continually thanks the Father, who teaches us to pray, saying: forgive us our trespasses, as we also forgive those who trespass against us. (Mt 6:10).”

WMOF 22 - Catechesis no 7

Location: In the church - Near to the confessional

Equipment:

- Instructions printed out (or accessed online)
- Beautiful picture of a sunset for example, Pixabay <https://pixabay.com/photos/mountain-landscape-sunset-nature-2417387/>
- Plastic teaspoons (or compostable if possible)

For those who need God's healing.

This Prayer Station reminds us to pray for those who suffer with sickness or injury and all that need God's healing.

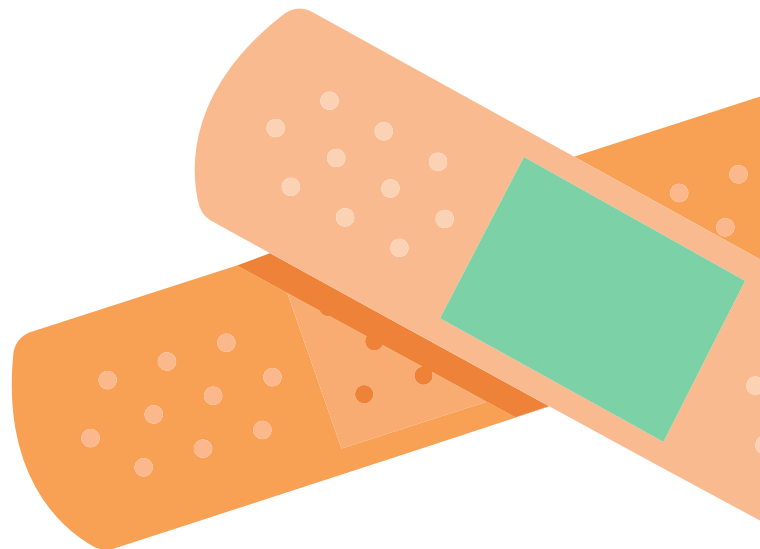
"The faith and charity of the Gospel are not life guarantees, nor do they preserve us from the suffering and pain that characterise human existence. They do not ensure our immunity from evil and hardship. Rather, they are a light that brightens our lives in moments of darkness and affliction. Therefore, even the most painful and sad situations, lived in unison with Jesus Christ, can become opportunities for cultivating relationships among each other, growing in our faith in God and in the certainty that every event in our lives holds precious treasures of Grace."

WMOF 22 Catechesis no 7.

Location: In the church - Mary altar

Equipment:

- Instructions printed out (or accessed online)
- Large card cut out of hands
- Plasters (to write on)
- Biro
- Votive candle holder and candles



8 Praying with Neighbourhood Saints.

This Prayer Station reminds us that it is the call of everyone in our church community, young and old, to love God in our everyday lives and to become holy.

“To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. [...] Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus.

(Gaudete et Exsultate 14). WMOF 22 - Catechesis no 2.

Location: In the church - by a statue

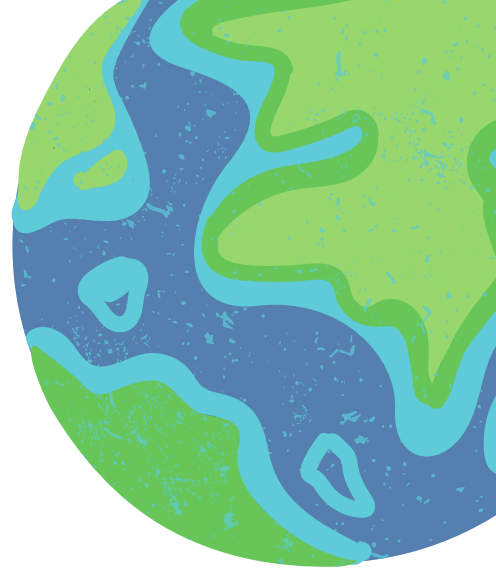
Equipment:

- Instructions printed out (or accessed online)
- Statue of a saint
- Small box for paper slips
- Paper slips
- Pencils
- Picture of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati to go with the saint story*

***You can tailor this prayer station to a saint specific to your particular church if you like, or to a child or married saint perhaps.**

The story included in this prayer station is of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a saint suggested as an example of a neighbourhood saint in Catechesis no. 2 by the WMOF 22. CELEBRATE has written his life story in simple, child friendly language. Feel free to replace this with another saint's story and picture if you prefer.





Our World Wide Family.

This Prayer Station reminds us that there are families all over the world that suffer from war or disasters. The parish family has a role in caring for others through our practical support and prayer.

“To understand how the family is an important pastoral component, since it has at its heart the desire to make those who are lonely and disoriented feel at home. Families who welcome other families.....Migration is another sign of the times to be faced and understood in terms of its negative effects on family life”. (Amoris Laetitia n. 46)

Drawn from WMOF 22 Pastoral Kit Conference 3 Identity and mission of Christian families, Panel II - Vocation and mission in the existential periphery.

Location: In church by windows or the doors (looking out to the world)

Equipment:

- Instructions printed out (or accessed online)
- Large world map
- Small spot stickers
- Newspaper articles sensitively chosen on places around the world in crisis

Possible child friendly map:

<https://www.mapsinternational.co.uk/wall-maps/shop-by-area/world-wall-maps/political-world-maps/primary-world-wall-map-political.html> - this map can be bought in a choice of sizes - buy as big as you can so that there is more space for the small spots e.g. there are likely to be a lot of spots on Ukraine at this time.

Linking to International Development charities: You might like to link this Prayer Station to a Parish Charity supporting International Development. You might find CAFOD's family page for ideas helpful, see <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/For-families> You might also like to make a link to Catholic charities within the UK who are supporting refugees.

10 The Family is called to Mission.



This Prayer Station reminds us that the family is called to share in Christ's mission to show the love of God to others.

"The Christian family is called upon to take part actively and responsibly in the mission of the Church in a way that is original and specific, by placing itself, in what it is and what it does as an "intimate community of life and love," at the service of the Church and of society."

(Familiaris Consortio n. 50 referred to in WMF22 Pastoral Kit Conference 3 - Identity and mission of Christian families).

Location: Church hall

Equipment:

- Instructions printed out (or accessed online)
- Rich Tea biscuits, fairy cakes or similar
- Little tubes of edible icing
- Cake decorations
- Copies of a prayer or scripture*

Health and Safety: Make sure parents/carers are aware of ingredients so they can make an informed decision on whether it is appropriate for their children/those in their care.

***Note to organiser: Please make several copies of the prayer and scripture on the following page for the families to take away and give as part of their family mission.**

Prayer Choice 1

I chose to make this biscuit for you today. I wanted you to know that you are special and valued, and you are always welcome at our church. I have chosen this prayer for you as well.

A morning prayer.

Dear God, help me to stay close to you today.

I bring to you all that is happening in my day [add whatever you are doing that day] and ask you to walk beside me.

Please fill my heart with your peace and help me to remember that you are always with me, wherever I go.

Thank you for creating me and for loving me, just as I am.

Amen.

Prayer Choice 2

I chose to decorate this for you today. I wanted you to know you are special and valued, and you are always welcome at our church. I have chosen this scripture for you.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long

(Psalm 23)

We give our worries to God.



This Prayer Station reminds us to hand over all our worries and concerns to God and he will give us His peace.

“It must also be noted that there are some wounds, such as illness and grief that are beyond our control, leaving us powerless and often deeply troubled.

These are experiences that sometimes seem to contradict God's promises and to deny His infinite and eternal Love. However, when lived in faith and openness to others, there are just as many opportunities for feeling loved and cared for by God and by others and being the object of their attention.

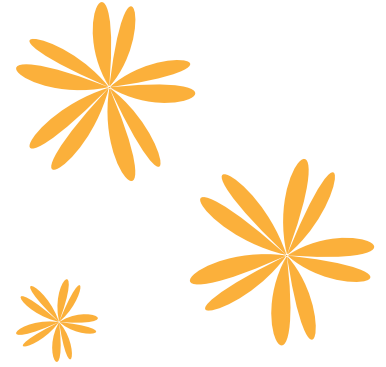
These are often difficult and painful moments, but they also turn out to be favourable privileged periods in which the Lord comes to visit us, because ‘the love of Jesus was in giving health, doing good: this always takes priority!’

Pope Francis General Audience 2015 in Catechesis no 7.

Location: In the grounds outside church

Equipment:

- Laminated instructions printed out in case it rains (or accessed online)
- Pots of bubbles



12 For our Family in Heaven.

This Prayer Station reminds us to pray for those who have died and gone before us.

Let us embrace Pope Francis' invitation:

'Let us think of our brothers, our sisters, and from our heart let us pray in silence for them'

Pope Francis General Audience 2015, in Catechesis no 4

Location: By the graveyard

Equipment:

- **Laminated instructions in case it rains (or accessed online)**
- **Bucket of flowers**

CELEBRATE is a Catholic ministry that aims to inspire, equip and connect people of all ages to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit, in support of the family, to encourage local community and to form the next generation.

We hope you'll find these prayer stations engaging for your families. They've been written in a similar style to our CELEBRATE@Home online resources which support family faith formation. These would be useful as follow up for further activities, either in the parish or to be recommended to families at home. Do take a look - they often follow the liturgical year and can be found at:
www.celebratetrust.org/celebrateathome

These CELEBRATE@home resources have been produced to serve the Church. They are free to download but are not free to produce so we would be very grateful if you would consider making a donation – thank you so much.

[Donate to CELEBRATE](#)

[Download the Prayer Stations](#)

or scan here!





PRAYER STATIONS

For Children and Families



CELEBRATE is a Catholic ministry that aims to inspire, equip and connect people of all ages to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit, in support of the family, to encourage local community and to form the next generation.

You can find out more information and for further family resources take a look at our website: celebrateatrust.org/celebrateathome

