

Pre-Red Wednesday Primary Schools Assembly

Notes for Teachers

Aid to the Church in Need's #RedWednesday initiative aims to highlight the injustices and religious persecution found in our world today. Our #RedWednesday Assembly is the perfect resource for you to use with your students to help them understand the tragic plight of many Christians around the world. It requires minimal preparation in your classroom; the assembly is mostly in video format, with ACN staff members leading students through the assembly.

Who We Are:

Aid to the Church in Need is a Catholic charity who supports Christians around the world who experience any kind of persecution, oppression or pastoral need. We fund around 5,000 projects in over 140 countries, and help both Christians as well as their wider communities. You can find out more about us by visiting our website > <https://acnuk.org/about/>

When is #RedWednesday?

This year, #RedWednesday is on 25th November.

What is #RedWednesday?

#RedWednesday is our annual, global, campaign to raise awareness for those who suffer the human rights violation of religious persecution. You can find out more about #RedWednesday here: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/>

Assembly Aim:

Our #RedWednesday assembly aims to help your students understand what religious persecution is, and why it is something that is important to raise awareness about. Religious persecution is more than just 'not being able to practise your faith'. In everyday life, it can translate to serious discrimination, traumatic violence, or acts of terrorism, a constant risk that many Christians and other faith groups have to live with.

In the assembly, we encourage your students to use their skills and enthusiasm to help support those who suffer for their faith. We share the stories of some of the young people helped by ACN. Finally, we remind your students to pray for those who are suffering. We remind them of the impact and importance of prayer, and that everyone, no matter their situation, can make a difference.

Preparation for the Assembly:

- We recommend that you watch the assembly through before showing to your students, as some sections may not be suitable for all students.
- Take a look at the resources mentioned in the video, online: https://acnuk.org/resources/?filter_resource_category=277

Guide to each of the slides:

1. **Opening slide** = Opening slide to the assembly – this can be on the screen when students come into the assembly hall. Briefly introduce ACN and Red Wednesday, and explain to students that they will learn more about ACN during the assembly, but first you will start with a game.
2. **Everyone please stand up** = this is the game to begin the assembly. Please invite everyone to stand. If this is not possible, children could instead raise their hands. Each time you click, a new statement will appear on the screen. Children are to sit/lower their hand when there is a statement that applies to them. Eventually just a few students should be left, before everyone eventually sits down. The idea behind the game is to get them thinking about the idea of being ‘singled out’ for something – just like many of the people ACN supports are.
3. **Tell us more** = Let the children know that Maisy (the milk carton!) is going to let us know about why we were playing that game, and what it has to do with ACN and Red Wednesday.
4. **Slide 4** = Click play, and the video will begin. This is Maisy Milk, our ACN primary school helper!
5. **Slide 5** = Click play, and the video will begin. Maisy mentions a man called Fr Werenfried; this little video explains about who he was, what he did and the beginnings of ACN.
6. **Slide 6** = Click play, and the video will begin. Bridget introduces Red Wednesday in more detail, and explains why it is needed in our world. She explains the differences between tolerance and respect, and highlights the importance of these two things.
7. **Slide 7** = Click play, and the video will begin. Clair expands the idea of the Red Corner – one of the main ways we are inviting schools to get involved with Red Wednesday this year.
8. **Slide 8** = Click play, and the video will begin. Bridget tells the stories of two young people helped by ACN, and then finishes the video with a prayer. Children can make the sign of the cross if they like, or just simply listen quietly.
9. **Stand together** = Bring the children back to the idea at the beginning of the assembly – how does it feel to be singled out? It doesn’t feel good, right? Encourage them to always make others welcome – even if they are different to them.
10. **Thank you!** = Please thank the students for listening, and let them know that the staff from ACN are looking forward to hearing all about what they decide to do on Red Wednesday.
11. **Please join us** = leave this slide on the screen as staff and students leave the assembly hall.

Things to Consider for #RedWednesday Itself

- There is a variety of ways to get involved – from saying a simple prayer together as a class or school, to fundraising or hosting a special assembly, to name a few ideas. Discuss with staff or students, what you might like to do at your school.
- You may want to consider the cross-curricular links that #RedWednesday touches upon, including justice, freedom, equality, prejudice and discrimination.
- If you have lots of languages spoken in your school, why not create a follow-up assembly or prayer service on #RedWednesday with students leading the Our Father in their language of choice? Alternatively, our #RedWednesday Novena has everything you need to run a daily prayer time in the lead up to the day itself > <https://acnuk.org/resource/red-wednesday-novena-primary/>
- Keep an eye on our website as there is more #RedWednesday content to follow!: https://acnuk.org/resources/?filter_resource_category=277

Check in with Us! No matter what you are planning for #RedWednesday, whether it’s small or big, we’d love to hear from you! Let us know what you’re up to at: Schools@acnuk.org so we can add you to our interactive map.