

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 or hall; the assembly is mostly in video format, with ACN staff leading students through the assembly.

Who We Are: Aid to the Church in Need is a Catholic charity who support 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 24th 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 Pre – Red Wednesday 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. We give some information about what they can do to help those suffering around the world.

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 page mentioned in the video, online:

<https://acnuk.org/resources-landing/>

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 explain to students that they will learn more about ACN during the assembly.
2. Slide 2 – video = Click play, and the video will begin. Introduction from Bridget, and introduction to the game on slides 3-5.
3. Slide 3 = Where's Maisy Milk? This shows a screen with a number of characters spread out across it. This is a bit like a 'Where's Wally?' illustration. Lead the game as you wish, but the aim is for the children to find Maisy (the milk carton) within the groups of people!
4. Slide 4 = Another 'Where's Maisy Milk?'
5. Slide 5 = Another 'Where's Maisy Milk?' (You can play 1,2 or 3 of these games. Whatever works for your school!)
6. Slide 6 = Click play, and the video will begin. Bridget explains the reasoning behind the game, what religious persecution is, and explains more about Red Wednesday. Bridget then

introduces the Red Wednesday Novena. Bridget then gives some more information about what is happening in Syria and Lebanon (two of the countries highlighted in the Novena). Bridget finishes the assembly with a prayer. Children can make the sign of the cross if they like, or just simply listen quietly.

7. 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.
8. 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.
- Week commencing 8th November – there will be another assembly released this week, suitable for use on Red Wednesday itself.

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.