

Lent: Round School Stations of the Cross Pilgrimage

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED



Thank you so much for your interest in our Stations of the Cross resource.

AIM:

To enable you to use our [Stations of the Cross](#) prayers and reflections this resource interactively, creatively and with greater pupil involvement.

OBJECTIVE:

For each class to create a physical 'Station of the Cross' to be positioned/displayed in school. When all 14 stations are complete, individuals, classes, parents, governors and visitors to the school can make the 'School Pilgrimage' and pray the stations prepared by the pupils.

YOU WILL NEED:

[The Stations of the Cross information](#) (teachers' notes, PowerPoint and prayers).



Materials for the display, once your class has decided how to depict their station *

HOW:








Aid to the Church in Need's Stations of the Cross link the prayers and biblical reflections to different ACN projects around the world. We raise money to pay for these projects in order to help people; people rely on the charity when they are in situations of need, emergencies, natural disasters, war, religious persecution and abandonment. ACN also supports clergy, Sisters and catechists across the world who look after their local communities in many different ways.

The primary schools' Stations of the Cross spotlight projects in the following countries:

-  **India – Station 1**
-  **Chile – Station 2**
-  **Syria – Stations 3, 10, & 13**
-  **Russia – Station 4**
-  **Ukraine – Station 5**
-  **Lebanon – Stations 6 & 13**
-  **Brazil – Station 7**
-  **Cuba – Station 8**
-  **Iraq – Station 9**
-  **Mozambique – Station 11**

-  **Uganda – Station 12**
-  **Mexico – Station 14**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Choose one of the Stations for your class.
2. Ask the pupils to find out about that country. For example, looking at a map to learn where that country is, what the flag looks like and any other facts they find interesting.
3. Find out if there is anyone in school or the wider school community who is from that country, and ask if they can share a little about what life is like there. Pupils could interview staff, their wider family or each other.
4. Discuss the work ACN is doing in that country and why it is necessary. If you would like more information, please contact: schools@acnuk.org
5. Then take some time to go through the scripture, story and prayers from your chosen station. There are some templates on the presentation to help with this.
6. Pupils decide in groups, or as a whole class, on one or more symbol(s) that reflect the chosen station.
7. Pupils devise a way to show their Station of the Cross in a visual manner (some or all of the following):
 -  That particular moment of Jesus' journey to and from the cross
 -  Their symbol
 -  The country
 -  ACN's work
 -  Prayers and thoughts from their research and reflections
 -  An invitation to mission for those who come to pray at that station
 -  The ACN logo
8. The class creates their station and it is placed either in a communal space in school or in your classroom. By the end, you will be able to position each of the 14 Stations of the Cross in different areas of the school.
9. Once all of the stations are completed, you can take your class on a 'pilgrimage' and invite the whole school community to do so during Lent.

This display can take whatever form you like – it can be personal to your school!

IDEAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

1. You could invite your local priest in to bless the Stations of the Cross or have an 'Opening Blessing' for all concerned.
2. Pupils could collect donations for their country by taking on a sponsored challenge: see the 'Say No to Say Yes' resource.

3. You could invite a member of the ACN Schools' team to visit your school to tell the children more about ACN's work.
4. Encourage pupils to pray for the people they have learned about during the liturgies of the Easter Triduum.
5. You could ask the local parish if they would like the display to visit their church – a perfect opportunity to bring school and church together over Lent and Easter.
6. You could send representatives from school to attend a Mass and let the parish know about what they have done and why it is important.

If you put up a display in school, please send us a picture! We would love to see them. You can email images to schools@acnuk.org or tag us on social media. Thank you for joining us this Lent!

Twitter - @ACN_Schools

Facebook - www.facebook.com/acnschools

Instagram - @acn_schools

* Examples could include: 3D items made with household boxes, paper mache, and freeze frame photographs printed. Or using coat hangers and string to link prayers; clothes pegs to show different contributions from pupils; or using Lenten themes, such as palms or sand to represent the desert. Footprint cut-outs; envelopes with parts of prayers or lines from scripture; calendar countdown for the forty days; items contained in cupcake cases; and collages and paper chains which visitors could add to.

Additional details on the current crisis in Ukraine 23.2.22 – Press Release:

Charity rolls out emergency aid to Ukraine

By John Newton

A CATHOLIC charity is set to despatch €1 million in immediate emergency aid as Ukraine descends into a state of war.

With project partners reporting a deepening catastrophe, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has rushed through plans to send €1 million (more than £830,000) to help the Church in Ukraine as it ministers to a country invaded by Russian troops.

Bishop Pavlo Honcharuk of Kharkiv, one of the dioceses in eastern Ukraine that ACN is supporting with emergency help, said: “The situation is getting worse every day. We live now from hour to hour.

“Prices are rising, especially for essential goods. The situation in the diocese is very difficult.

“The number of faithful has decreased and those remaining, unfortunately, cannot maintain the parishes or support the priests. They come themselves and ask for help from the priests and sisters.”

The emergency aid will meet the essential needs – including heating, lighting, water and food – of the diocese’s 57 priests as well as the 54 members of religious communities, enabling them to continue their vital ministry to those struggling to make ends meet.

ACN will be providing these essentials for the four Greek-Catholic exarchates and the two Roman-Catholic dioceses covering the eastern regions of Kharkiv, Zaporizhya, Donetsk, Odesa and Krym.

Bishop Honcharuk added: “People need consolation, strength and support. The immediate emergency grant by ACN, in addition to its current support, will strengthen the Catholic Church in Ukraine in its commitment to stay on the ground and keep serving its flock in the face of military and economic war.”

As part of the emergency package, the charity has also committed to ensuring 6,229 priests and members of religious congregations across the country receive subsistence aid to help them carry on their pastoral work.

Dr Thomas Heine-Geldern, international executive president of ACN, stressed the charity’s support for, and solidarity with, its project partners at this crucial moment.

He said: “ACN has supported the Church in Ukraine during the past and it will not abandon her at this very critical and difficult time.

“Especially now, ACN has to ensure the presence of priests and religious sisters and brothers with their people, in the parishes, with the refugees, in the orphanages and homes for single mothers and for the elderly who will face the challenge of surviving in a climate of spiralling costs as a result of the war.”

Dr Heine-Geldern concluded: “We wish to assure our prayers for the people of Ukraine that, through the intercession of Our Lady of Peace, they may be spared the pain of further violence and loss of life.”

Editor's Notes

Original interviews by Maria Lozano



www.acnuk.org

Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation directly under the Holy See. As a Catholic charity, ACN supports the faithful wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in need through information, prayer, and action.

Undertaking thousands of projects every year, the charity provides emergency support for people experiencing persecution, transport for clergy and lay Church workers, Child's Bibles, media and evangelisation projects, churches, Mass stipends and other support for priests and nuns and training for seminarians.

Aid to the Church in Need UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1097984) and Scotland (SC040748). ACN's UK office is in Sutton, Surrey and there is a Scottish office in Motherwell, near Glasgow and another office based in Lancaster.

Please always acknowledge Aid to the Church in Need as the source when using our material.

For more information, contact ACN's Head of Press & Information John Pontifex on 020 8661 5161 or Senior Press Officer Dr John Newton on 020 8661 5167.

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