

Engaging with faith during a pandemic



Background

The current pandemic is presenting special challenges for people living with dementia and their carers who participate in the celebration of religious life. The ability for people to physically come together and share in their religious beliefs has been taken away.

Tips to continue engaging with faith at Easter or for other religious celebrations

- Use simple devotional practices such as creating a safe and quiet area for prayer, allowing time for rest and reflection
- Recite key passages to acknowledge religious tradition
- Offer the joy of music through listening to choirs and hymns
- Encourage participation in your faith community through radio, television and the internet, such as YouTube or Facebook
- Watch a religious movie on TV
- Read stories aloud with pictures and large text to encourage and engage participation, such as a devotional booklet, *Jesus Loves Me* books, and consider using a holding symbol such as a wooden holding cross for connection and engagement
- Keeping in touch with family and friends over the phone or online. Share stories and photos from previous celebrations to keep connected

**Given the pandemic, celebrations will be different to usual years.
Please check online for up to date information.**

DSA continues to support your care home, via our normal referral pathways. **We are considered an 'essential service' for residential care by the Commonwealth Department of Health** and, as such, our Dementia Consultants remain able to visit to provide direct support, or phone or video conference depending on your preference. Regardless of whether your home is in lockdown or not, we are still available to support.