

Catholic Grandparents Association

Newsletter - November 2020



In November We Remember

November is a time for remembering and praying for our loved ones who have gone before us and whose loss we feel. It is a time when we are particularly conscious of those who are grieving and all those families who have lost loved ones in the past year.

More than most years, this November is especially poignant as we remember all those who have died during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also thinking of those left behind who have been unable to grieve properly.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions in many parts of the world, it will not be possible for us to gather together in remembrance this year.

But, we would like to invite you to take part in two initiatives:

Light a candle at home:

Choose an evening when you have family around to light a candle and pray our prayer for grandparents which is available on our website.

Remembrance Mass online:

We would also like to invite you to join in online for a special Mass of Remembrance on Sunday 22 November. The Mass will be celebrated by our patron, Archbishop Michael Neary, at 12 noon on www.knockshrine.ie. and grandparents will be included as a special intention during the Mass.

'Ní imithe uainn atá siad, ach imithe romhainn' (They are not gone from us, but gone before us).

A WARM WELCOME IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST ANDREWS AND EDINBURGH IN SCOTLAND

The Catholic Grandparents Association received a warm welcome from the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh where the first steps have been taken to introduce the CGA to the Archdiocese.



In a Zoom event which took place earlier this month, Archbishop Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, and Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA, spoke about their commitment to a ministry for grandparents.

During the Zoom meeting, which was attended by pastoral workers, priests, deacons and grandparents, it was noted that grandparents form probably the largest and most active contingent serving the life of our parishes. They are our sacristans, readers, extraordinary ministers, catechists and more. Serving parishes like this is fulfilling, but what is often closest to the hearts of grandparents in the Church today is what they can do to keep their families connected to the Church and Catholic faith.

In her keynote address Catherine gave great encouragement to the grandparents present. She also presented a vision of how the CGA ministry could work in the archdiocese so as we parishes and grandparents can connect, support each other, share ideas and experience and build their sense of mission in today's Church.

The CGA is very grateful to the Very Reverend Jeremy Milne, Vicar Episcopal for Marriage & Families within the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh, for the opportunity to share ideas on how we can support all grandparents in their own faith and in their important place in all our parishes and families.

JOIN US FOR A CUPPA AT THE GRANDPARENTS' FAITH CAFÉ

We are delighted to announce a new initiative to connect grandparents and those with an interest in our ministry during this pandemic. We would love you to come and join us online *via* Zoom at the Grandparents' Faith Café.

The Grandparents' Faith Café will take place once a month online and it can be adapted for any diocese or parish which has a ministry to grandparents in place. We will provide you with the theme, the catechetical materials and some discussion notes.

We all know how isolating the Covid-19 pandemic has been, especially for grandparents. We know that in many parts of the world you have been unable to attend Mass. We want to bring grandparents together online in safe socially welcoming spaces where you can connect with each other and with your faith.

If you are interested in being part of the first Grandparents' Faith Café please email us info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com. We would particularly welcome those who might be interested in hosting a Faith Café to come and see how we do it so as you can then apply it to your own diocese or parish.





SOCIAL MEDIA

**"A grandfather
is someone with
silver in his hair
and gold
in his heart."
- Unknown.**



www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

We have recently revamped our social media output to include some new content in the form of some thought provoking 'thought for the day' messages aimed at grandparents.

Do give us a follow on Twitter as @CathGrandAssoc and find us on Facebook as 'Catholic Grandparents Association'.



PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Lord Jesus,
you were born of the Virgin Mary,
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.
Look with love on grandparents the world over.
Protect them! They are a source of enrichment
for families, for the Church and for all of society.
Support them! As they grow older,
may they continue to be for their families
strong pillars of Gospel faith,
guardians of noble domestic ideals,
living treasuries of sound religious traditions.
Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,
that they may pass on to future generations the fruits
of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus,
help families and society
to value the presence and role of grandparents.
May they never be ignored or excluded,
but always encounter respect and love.
Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed
in all the years of life which you give them.
Mary, Mother of all the living,
keep grandparents constantly in your care,
accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,
and by your prayers, grant that all families
may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,
where you await all humanity
for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!

Benedict XVI

Don't forget to download and share the beautiful prayer which Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote and gifted to us. The prayer has been translated into many different languages and it is also available in Braille. You can access the prayer on our website.



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY 2020

We will be inviting parishes to use our prayer resource for Bambinelli Sunday on the Third Sunday of Advent [13 December]. Our resource can be used in churches and in light of Covid-19 restrictions, it can also be used for an online service. It will be available on our website from 1 December.

Catholic Grandparents Association

**Our Mission: Passing on the faith and keeping
prayer at the heart of family life**

www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

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