

Catholic Grandparents Association Newsletter - September 2021



**We must be open to the
wisdom of elders.
- John Michael Talbot**

The arrival of September and harvest time signals a new season of the year and for many of us another season of back to routine after the long sunny Summer days spent on various family outings or adventures. Autumn also signifies a change. We see it in the colours around us on crisp September mornings. Many of us yearn for an Indian Summer - those unexpected warm September days that often take us by surprise. Autumn in many ways feels like nature sweeping away the old to bring on a new season. As we look forward to another Autumn and Winter it is with hope and expectation.

The CGA has had the most extraordinary year with so many gifts and moments to savour, especially the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. We have also just celebrated our 10th Grandparents' Faith Café and we must always be looking forward to how we can continue to grow the Catholic Grandparents' Association. Our dream remains the same as it was from the very beginning - to have a Grandparents' Ministry in every parish. We will continue to support Grandparents and Parishes especially in a post-pandemic world to work together to offer encouragement and support for grandparents and elders in a parish setting. With that in mind we are holding our first ever Grandparents' Ministry Seminar we are inviting Grandparents and those working in parish pastoral ministries to join us online on Tuesday 28 September (see more inside the newsletter).

I would also like to encourage Grandparents to come home to Mass this Autumn. We Grandparents need to lead by example and encourage people back to Mass. We have been blessed by our domestic Churches and the ability to participate in Mass from our armchairs. But as people of faith we are all about community and communion, we are all about gathering. It's time for us to change from being temporary armchair Catholics to come back to Church. May God continue to bless the efforts of all of you involved in ministry and outreach to Grandparents at this time.

Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA

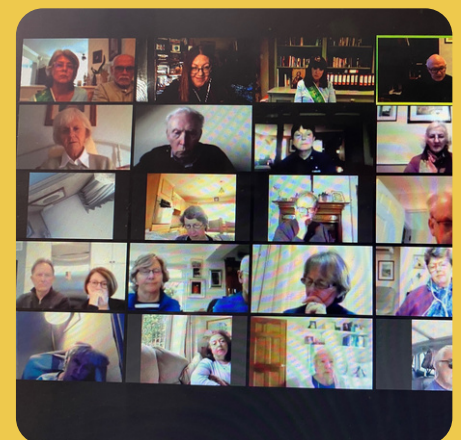
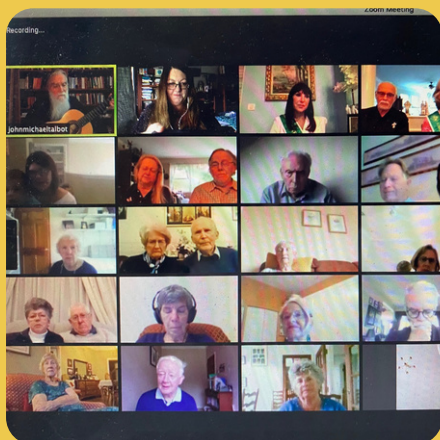
GRANDPARENTS' FAITH CAFÉ MARKS ITS 10TH MEETING

The Grandparents' Faith Café has continued to meet over the Summer months and recently hosted its 10th meeting on Tuesday 14 September.

The July Faith Cafe was a celebration of Grandparents to coincide with the first ever World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which was celebrated on 25 July. Archbishop Michael Neary, Patron of the CGA, was the guest speaker for July. In his address, the archbishop paid tribute to grandparents across the world for their stoicism during the recent pandemic.

The August Faith Cafe saw multi-platinum selling, Grammy/Dove award winning contemporary Catholic Christian Music pioneer John Michael Talbot join us as guest speaker. In a moving and challenging address he said that we must be open to the wisdom of elders. John Michael Talbot also delighted those present with not one but two performances of some of his music.

The September Faith Cafe was like a homecoming for the CGA as it centered on the story of Knock Shrine in Co Mayo, which is linked closely to the growth and development of the CGA pilgrimages down through the years. Father Richard Gibbons, Rector and PP of Knock shared the story Ireland's International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine. He spoke about the events on 21 August 1879, when 15 people from the village witnessed an apparition on the gable wall of the parish church. Father Gibbons also shared some of the stories of the development of the Shrine since then including the visits of two Popes. Father Gibbons highlighted importance of the Reconciliation Chapel at the Shrine which he described as the 'engine room' for everything else. You can find out more about the Shrine online at www.knockshrine.ie.



Upcoming Faith Café dates:

The Grandparents' Faith Café will take place on Tuesday 12 October, Tuesday 9 November and Tuesday 14 December. Booking is by email and is open now for the October Faith Café to info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com.

BOOKINGS OPEN NOW FOR MINISTRY SEMINAR

On Tuesday 28 September the CGA will host its first ever Ministry Seminar to facilitate those interested in establishing a Grandparents' Ministry in parishes.

The Ministry Seminar is aimed at those starting out and those wishing to enrich and enhance existing ministries. The event will take place *via* Zoom at 7.30pm local time to Ireland which is 1.30pm Central US and Canada.

The seminar will include input on starting a ministry and will feature case studies of those already involved in ministries. It will also include input on using social media to grow your ministry.

Email us to reserve your place on info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com.



REACHING OUT TO GRANDPARENTS
IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

A CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS
ASSOCIATION MINISTRY SEMINAR

TUESDAY 28 September 2021
7.30pm - 8.30pm online *via* Zoom

YOU PLANTED TREES IN THEIR MEMORY

We invited you to 'Plant a Tree in their Memory' as part of the celebration of the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly and you did just that! We watched as parishes and families across the world chose trees and planted them in memory of Grandparents and Elderly that are no longer with us.

We received so many images of the tree planting ceremonies and we have shared as many as we can on our social media. We share a small selection of images too in this month's newsletter. Please do keep sending us images of how you marked the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. We love seeing what you have done. Email them to us at info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com.



HONOURING GRANDPARENTS IN DUBLIN

A plaque was recently unveiled to mark the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly at the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, Navan Road, Dublin 7.

The picture includes Father John O' Brian, Kitty Flynn, Lily Carberry and Mary Cotter from the Catholic Grandparents Association.



“CULTIVATE YOUR ROOTS, VISIT YOUR GRANDPARENTS; IT WILL DO YOU GOOD.” – POPE FRANCIS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

In a recent address to young people Pope Francis offered them some advice about their roots and their connection with Grandparents. The Holy Father was speaking to a gathering of young people in Lokomotiva Stadium on Tuesday 14 September as part of his visit to Slovakia.

For love to be fruitful, don't forget your roots. What are your roots? Surely, they are your parents and especially your grandparents. Take heed: your grandparents. They prepared the soil in which you have grown. Cultivate your roots, visit your grandparents; it will do you good. Ask them questions, take time to listen to their stories. Today, there is a danger of growing up rootless, because we feel we always have to be on the go, to do everything in a hurry.

What we see on the internet immediately enters our homes; just one click and people and things pop up on our screen. Those faces can end up becoming more familiar than those of our own families.

Bombarded by virtual messages, we risk losing our real roots. To grow disconnected from life, or to fantasise in a void, is not a good thing; it is a temptation from the evil one. God wants us to be firmly grounded, connected to life. Never closed, but always open to others! Grounded and open. Understood? Grounded and open.” We concur with his advice!



CONNECT WITH US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

You can connect with us on Twitter as @CathGrandAssoc and find us on Facebook as 'Catholic Grandparents Association'. We share a daily thought for the day and a range of other helpful resources. So do give us a follow or a like!



Catholic Grandparents Association
Our Mission: Passing on the faith
and keeping prayer at the heart of family life
www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org
Email: info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com

