

Catholic Grandparents Association eZine

July 2021



World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on Sunday 25 July

The first ever World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on Sunday 25 January on the theme 'I am with you always' (Mt 28:20). Pope Francis will celebrate Mass to mark this new Universal Church celebration at 10.00am in Rome. The Mass will be streamed on the Vatican's news channels. A plenary indulgence will also be offered as part of the celebration.

Our resources are available to download now for the event. They include liturgical resources, prayers, the Holy Father's message, our emblem for the day and a prayer service for the Plant a Tree in their memory initiative.

The resources are available on www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org and on www.laityfamilylife.org. The official social media hashtag for the day is inspired by the theme of the Pope's message. You can follow all that is happening on Sunday online using #IamWithYouAlways.

National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE

3.00pm on Sunday 25 July 2021 in Knock Basilica

www.knockshrine.ie



Principal Celebrant: Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam and Patron of the Catholic Grandparents Association who will lead the pilgrimage and the celebration of Pope Francis' first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly at Knock Shrine.

Music at the Mass: The combined choirs of Knock Parish directed by Una Nolan, Director of Music at Knock Shrine.

Reflection: Catherine Wiley, Founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association.

Children's Prayer Appeal: Inviting all children to send a prayer and a hug to their Grandparents.



DUE TO ONGOING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, CAPACITY IN THE BASILICA WILL BE VERY LIMITED, SO PLEASE JOIN US ONLINE ON WWW.KNOCKSHRINE.IE/WATCH

This year's National Grandparents' Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine will also be taking place on Sunday 25 July to coincide with the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The principal celebrant of the Mass will be Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam and Patron of the CGA. Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and Chair of the Bishops' Council for Marriage and the Family will concelebrate the Mass.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, numbers will be strictly limited in the Basilica and so the Mass will be live streamed on www.knockshrine.ie at 3.00pm.

Catherine Wiley will share a brief video message to those in the Basilica and to those joining in line at 2.50pm just before the start of Mass. This message will also be made available on the CGA website.

For more information see www.knockshrine.ie.

Video Messages and Reflections for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly



There are a number of video messages for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly:

- Click here to watch a video reflection from **Cardinal Vincent Nichols** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93_M2hFsTCc
- Click here to watch a video reflection from **Bishop Denis Nulty** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAKzm9drYIU>

This is a really beautiful reflection from Canon Christopher Whitehead which was recorded back in 2013 about the lives of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, the parents of Mary and, of course, grandparents of Jesus. In Florence in Italy, in the Franciscan church of Santa Croce, tucked away in a little side chapel, is the

Baroncelli family memorial. The frescoes were painted by Taddeo Gaddi between 1328 and 1333. They depict the life of St. Joachim and Saint Ann as well as scenes of the life of the Virgin and scenes from the life of Christ. The narrative is taken from the golden legend written towards the end of the 13th century, a legend which fleshes out the story of Joachim and Anne - the grandparents of Jesus. Click here to watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCoBAGD97Uo>

CGA Commemorative Medal



Our beautiful new commemorative CGA medal is now available to order from our website. In keeping with the charism which is the Catholic Grandparents Association, our exclusive medal has at its center, the child Jesus holding a Red Rose representing the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mystic Rose. Jesus is surrounded by his Grandparents, Saint Joachim and Saint Anne.

Working with renowned arts and craftsmen in Rome, this exquisite design came to fruition after many years of searching for the image that would truly depict the beauty, selfless love and devotion that Grandparents have for their grandchildren. It is our hope that this beautiful image signifying God's plan for the sanctity and unity of familial generational bonds will bring great joy, encouragement and support to Grandparents in passing on their faith.

For more see <http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/shop/>

CGA website and Social Media

My grandparents and parents, the domestic Church, laid a foundation from the kitchen table which helped people like me to see the bigger picture. And that bigger picture is that the Church belongs to Christ and is made up of 'God's holy and faithful people'.
- Fr Bryan Shortall OFM Cap



Our website and social media pages are full of useful links and resources. Please stop by www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org and find us on Facebook and Twitter.