Catholic Grandparents Association

CELEBRATING THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY SUNDAY 25 JULY 2021

Pope Francis has established a World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will take place for the first time on Sunday 25 July 2021.

The Catholic Grandparents Association has been at the forefront in campaigning for a greater recognition of Grandparents for their role and vocation in passing on their faith to the next generation. The announcement of a new Church-wide celebration for Grandparents and the elderly comes in answer to our prayerful request to the Holy Father Pope Francis.

Grandparents and the elderly are often overlooked, but this new day in the Universal Church calendar is a momentous achievement for Grandparents and the elderly and will hopefully reassure them that they are loved and that they are needed. It is refreshing also to note the renewed commitment by the Church for the Pastoral Care of the elderly, a group of people who have suffered greatly during the Covid-19 pandemic due to being isolated from family, from their faith and from many of their daily supports.

Will you join us in marking this momentous day in parishes? We have a whole suite of resources and ideas for how you can make this a wonderful celebration for all. Here are some ideas! Please visit our website for a more detailed explanation of the resources.

Parishes celebrating the World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly

RESOURCES FOR PARISHES

- The CGA emblem for the World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the elderly is now available to download for use to promote this day.
- Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's Prayer for Grandparents is available to download and to order as bookmarks/prayer cards.
- Introduce the Children's Prayer Appeal in your parish.
- Resources for Grandparents on 'Amoris Laetitia'.
- Thought for the Day visuals for Grandparents are available daily on our social media pages.
- E-Card Greetings for the World Day of Prayer can be downloaded for sharing on 25 July.
- Liturgical Resources: Prayers, Intercessions, Reflections, Homily Notes will be available for use in parishes on Sunday 25 July.
- A new multimedia version of the Pope's Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly will be launched on Sunday 25 July.

IDEAS FOR YOUR PARISH TO MARK THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

- Host a Mass of Thanksgiving on the weekend of 24/25 July with a focus on the celebration of Grandparents. If possible invite Grandparents to be part of the Mass or to join in online if we are restricted by Covid-19. Include those in care homes.
- Grandparents' Book of Remembrance: Invite parishioners to share the names of Grandparents and elderly members of their family who are no longer with us in a Parish Book of Remembrance. The book can be brought to the altar at the start of Mass on the weekend of 24/25 July.
- Join in online with the celebrations led by Pope Francis in Rome (details to be announced).
- Acknowledge a Grandparent or an elderly person with 'The Grandparents Medal' award from the CGA. A commemorative medal is available from the CGA for use for this purpose. As well as giving them the commemorative medal for display, you can also present them with a CGA gold or silver medal to wear.
- 'Passing on the Faith Podcast' project - a living faith audio archive in your parish with members of the parish youth group interviewing Grandparents to create an archive of faith stories.
- Host a Novena or Holy Hour for Grandparents and the Elderly on the eve of Sunday 25 July.
- Display prayers from the Children's Prayer Appeal in your church on the weekend of 24/25 July. Make some of these available to local care homes.
- Talk to us about establishing a Grandparents' Ministry in your parish which could be launched to coincide with the World Day of Prayer on the weekend of 24/25 July.
- Forget-me-not flowers are the official flowers for Grandparents. These might be included in the liturgy or seeds might be passed on to grandchildren to grow in memory of their Grandparents.
- Send a group to your National Grandparents Pilgrimage in 2021. (eg Knock, Walsingham, etc)

Visit our website for more information on our resources

www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org