

# Catholic Grandparents Association

## CELEBRATING THE WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY



**"DO NOT CAST ME OFF IN MY OLD AGE"**  
(cf. Psalm 71:9)

Pope Francis established a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly which took place for the first time on Sunday 25 July 2021. The celebration will fall on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the fourth Sunday of July.

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 came 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. The theme of the Pope's Message changes each year.

We invite you to 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.



Follow us on social media for updates on  
The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.



# PARISHES CELEBRATING THE WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

## RESOURCES FOR PARISHES

- The CGA emblem for the World Day for Grandparents and the elderly is 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.
- Visuals for Grandparents are available daily on our social media pages.
- Liturgical Resources: Prayers, Intercessions, Reflections, Homily Notes for use in parishes.
- Posters and Flyers.



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

- Host a Mass of Thanksgiving on the fourth weekend of July with a focus on the celebration of Grandparents. If possible invite Grandparents to be part of the Mass.
- 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.
- Plant a Tree in your parish in memory of all Grandparents and elders.
- 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.
- Host a Novena or Holy Hour for Grandparents and the Elderly on the eve of the Sunday.
- Display prayers from the Children's Prayer Appeal in your church on the fourth weekend of 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.
- 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. (This year we will have a pilgrimage in Knock, Walsingham, and in Medjugorje.)