

## THIS SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### First ever World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

This Sunday parishes across the Archdiocese are set to dedicate one of their Sunday Masses to the first ever World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Pope Francis has called for the universal church to celebrate the occasion on Sunday 25 July - the closest Sunday to the memorial of Jesus' grandparents, Saints Joachim and Ann (26 July).

Three diocesan initiatives are now being developed to mark the occasion and you're invited to get involved.

The theme '*I Am With You Always*' has been chosen to mark the occasion, organised by The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Lianne Pap, diocesan Marriage and Family Life Coordinator, is encouraging all parishes to take part in the celebration.

She is developing three diocesan initiatives as part of the event and is now accepting contributions:

**“Photos:** As a diocese I would like to compile some images of grandchildren giving their grandparents a hug (or a virtual hug if they are not able to meet in person).

These can be emailed to me at [lianne.pap@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:lianne.pap@rcaob.org.uk) or I can be tagged on social media [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

**“Words of Wisdom:** What wise words do you remember that your grandparents or elderly have passed onto you?

“I am inviting children, young adults, families to share these words of wisdom as well as grandparents sharing words of wisdom they have received from their grandchildren.”

Lianne is also working with parishes to explore setting up parish-based **grandparents' groups**.

The purpose of these groups would be for grandparents (& honorary grandparents) to meet monthly and come together for prayer, passing on the faith (providing encouragement and exploring good practices, as well as looking at overcoming the obstacles and challenges that are faced), ongoing formation and friendship.

To mark the event, The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life have produced the following resources for parishes:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=88c4ca19-cd9a-4f9b-a702-df1a69bd4612>

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=d3b78abe-4110-477e-bcaa-d2cdba4b949a>

#### PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

I thank You, Lord, for the comfort of Your presence: even in times of loneliness, You are my hope and my confidence, You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth! I thank You for having given me a family and for having blessed me with a long life. I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty, for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me. I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me. Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace, teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me, to never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to new generations. Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church, that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth. Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world, that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed, the poor consoled and wars ended. Sustain me in weakness and help me to live life to the full in each moment that You give me, in the certainty that you are with me every day, even until the end of the age. Amen

For further information please see the Birmingham Archdiocese Website.

<https://www.birminghamarchdiocese.org.uk>