

# World day for grandparents and the elderly

## Suggested Homily, Intercessions and Final Blessing

### Homily notes

Today the Church celebrates the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, a day that invites us not only to give thanks, but to reflect more deeply on the place of older people within the life of our families, our communities, and our Church. This year's theme, "*I will never forget you*" from the prophet Isaiah, is first and foremost a word spoken by God. It is a promise of enduring love and fidelity: no matter our age, our frailty, or our circumstances, we are never forgotten by God.

Again and again in the Scriptures, we encounter a God who remembers, a God who remembers the covenant, who remembers the people, who remains faithful across time. This divine remembering is not passive; it is active, life-giving, and sustaining. In a particular way, we see this faithfulness reflected in the lives of grandparents and the elderly among us. They are living witnesses to God's presence over time. They carry within them the memory of faith that has endured, deepened, and been handed on. In them, we glimpse the continuity of God's love across generations.

For this reason, the Church recognises the later years of life not simply as a stage, but as a true vocation. Grandparents and the elderly have a unique and irreplaceable role within the Body of Christ. They keep us connected to the roots of our faith. They pass on wisdom, stories, and belief to younger generations. And they fulfil a profound mission of intercession, holding families, communities, and the world in prayer. Their presence among us is not incidental; it is a gift and a grace, a sign of God's enduring faithfulness.

At the same time, this day gently challenges us. The words "*I will never forget you*" are also a question for us: do we always remember? We live in a culture that can move quickly, that can prize independence and productivity, and that can sometimes leave people feeling invisible or isolated. Pope Francis has spoken often of a "throw-away culture", and the elderly can be among those most affected by it. Today calls us to a different way of seeing and living: one shaped by the Gospel, where every person is recognised, valued, and included.

## Homily notes cont...

This has very real and practical implications. It asks us to notice who is not here, who may be unable to join us, who may be homebound, who may be longing for connection. It invites us to reach out in simple but meaningful ways: a visit, a conversation, a gesture of care. It also calls us, as a community, to ensure that older people are able to participate as fully as possible in the life of the Church, especially in the Sunday Eucharist, which is the heart of our communal life.

Ultimately, this day reminds us that the Church is a communion across generations. Young and old belong together. The energy and hope of youth, and the wisdom and memory of age, are not in competition; they are gifts that enrich one another. When we gather as the Body of Christ, we gather as one family, bound together by faith, memory, and love. So today, we give thanks for the grandparents and elderly among us: for their witness, their faith, and their quiet, faithful presence. And we commit ourselves anew to being a community that remembers: a community that honours, includes, and cherishes every generation.

For in a world that can so easily forget, we are called to be a people who remember, because we belong to a God who never forgets us.

# Prayer of the Faithful

## **Introduction (Presider):**

Gathered as one family of faith, and mindful that God never forgets us, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

### **1. For the Church**

That the Church may be a place of welcome, honouring the wisdom, faith, and presence of grandparents and the elderly, and witnessing to the dignity of every stage of life.  
Lord, hear us.

### **2. For grandparents and the elderly**

That they may know the love of God in their lives, be strengthened in hope, and be supported by families and communities that cherish them as a gift.  
Lord, hear us.

### **3. For those who feel forgotten or alone**

That they may be comforted by God's presence and renewed through the care and companionship of others.  
Lord, hear us.

### **4. For families and younger generations**

That children and young people may grow in gratitude for the faith, stories, and wisdom handed on to them, and be inspired to deepen bonds across generations.  
Lord, hear us.

### **5. For our community**

That we may be attentive to those in need around us, reaching out in practical ways to ensure that no one is overlooked or forgotten.  
Lord, hear us.

### **6. For those who have died**

That our deceased grandparents and elderly loved ones may be welcomed into the fullness of eternal life, where they are held forever in God's loving embrace.  
Lord, hear us.

## **Conclusion (Presider):**

Loving God, you never forget your people. Hear the prayers we offer you today and keep us always in your care.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# Final Blessing

Let us pray.

Loving God,  
you are faithful from generation to generation,  
and you never forget your people.

We give you thanks for the gift of these grandparents and elderly among us.  
For their lives, their faith, their wisdom,  
and for the love they have shared and continue to share.

Bless them with your peace.  
Strengthen them in hope.  
Sustain them in times of weakness,  
and surround them with the care and companionship of others.

Renew in them the joy of knowing  
that they are a precious presence in our community,  
and a living sign of your enduring love.

May they continue to inspire us by their witness,  
and be upheld by our gratitude and care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**