



World day for Grandparents and the elderly - 2026

Pastoral and liturgical suggestions for Parishes and communities

Prepare

Share the Pope's message

Each year, the Holy Father delivers a message addressed to grandparents and the elderly based on the theme scripture chosen for the year. When published, this message can be found on the [World Days for Grandparents and the Elderly page](#) of the Dicastery for Laity Family and Life.

Opportunities for reflection and discussion

Provide opportunities for reflection and discussion dedicated to the elderly in the community. Perhaps draw on the [Pope's message](#) or other [Resources on The Elderly](#).

Consider finding ways to meet online so that those who are housebound can participate.

Visit

For those who are house bound in your community, gather a team to hand-deliver the Pope's message and these small gifts. Perhaps your team taking communion to the sick can deliver these as part of their visitations also?

Promote and advocate

Share news about the World day for Grandparents and the elderly via your social media and newsletters so that parishioners can respond in their own families. Newsletter inserts and social media resources will be made available through the Clergy bulletin and on the [Archdiocesan Ministries website](#). Be sure to let your community know about World day for Grandparents and the elderly activities in your parish or community.

Support participation in the Sunday Mass for 26th July

Help as many elderly people as possible to attend and share in the Sunday liturgy on 26th July. This means planning ahead so that families and communities can support their involvement.

Pastoral and liturgical suggestions for Parishes and communities continued

Give a gift

Along with the Pope's message, prepare a small gift for the grandparents and elderly in your community such as:

- a prayer or scripture card. You could arrange your own or choose one of these: [St Anne and St Joachim prayer card](#), [Isaiah 49:15 scripture card](#).
- a handwritten card (perhaps written by the children from your parish school or OSHC).
- a flower, medal or other small items from your piety stall.

These could be given after mass or during visitation.

Intercessory prayer group

Inspire and mobilise the grandparents and elderly in your parish or community to their 'very true specific mission' – interceding in prayer. In the week leading up to World Day for Grandparents and the elderly, invite them to gather to intercede for the people, the life and mission of the faith community. Gather prayer intentions of the community at mass the week before or via your parish social media pages. Decide how you will pray together. Perhaps take turns to pray spontaneously using the format of a Prayer of the Faithful, perhaps pray the rosary together, or some other form of prayer chosen by the group.

Consider finding ways to meet online so that those who are housebound can participate.

Connect with your school or OSHC

Make the most of the opportunity to engage the children and young people of the community through your parish school or OSHC - this might involve the preparation of gifts, events or in the Sunday liturgy. Perhaps elderly of the parish could be engaged to share their stories with the young people or be invited for a grandparents day. See '[Pastoral and liturgical suggestions for schools, early education centres and OSHC](#)' for further ideas.

Engage the children and youth of your parish or community

Take time to share with young people of your parish or community so that they can reach out to the grandparents and elderly in their life.

Perhaps plan to orientate the message of Children's Liturgy of the Word on 26th July

#ElderlyAndGrandparents

Pastoral and liturgical suggestions for Parishes and communities continued

On the day

Celebrate Mass together

Dedicate one of the Masses on Sunday 26th July to the Day with grandparents and the elderly of your parish or community.

You might consider:

- Inviting your parish school to provide a choir.
- Using these suggested [Homily notes, Intercessions and Final Blessing](#). Many thanks to Liturgy Brisbane!
- Entrusting all the grandparents and all the elderly who participate in the Day with the Holy Father's prayer intentions together with the special intentions of their own community.
- Inviting some of the children of the parish to give a small gift to the grandparents and elderly as they exit the church.

Other resources can also be found on the [World Days for Grandparents and the Elderly page](#) of the Dicastery for Laity Family and Life.

You may also like to use this [Children's Liturgy of the Word](#).

Hospitality before and after mass

Offer special welcome and hospitality before and after mass on 26th July, 2026. Encourage parishioners and community members to make space for elderly people and visitors, ensure a welcoming presence at the entrance of the church and ushers to help people feel comfortable. Provide a cuppa and conversation after Mass.

Stay connected

Make the most of this opportunity to let people know how they can stay connected with your parish or community! Share your social media details and be sure to post stories and photos about your celebration of World Day for grandparents and the elderly. Let everyone know upcoming events in the parish. Perhaps even plan a follow up event that you could invite people to?