



World day for Grandparents and the elderly - 2026

Suggested activities for Schools, Outside school hours care, and Early education centres

Prepare

Share the Pope's message with staff and families

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

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 and neighbourhoods. Newsletter inserts and social media resources will be made available on the [Archdiocesan Ministries website](#). Be sure to let your community know about World day for Grandparents and the elderly activities in your local parish or community.

Visit

Some schools arrange visits for their older students to local or community nursing homes. This creates wonderful opportunities for intergenerational sharing and learning together.

Invite grandparents to visit your school or centre

Invite grandparents to visit your school or centre. Here are a few ideas:

- hold a classroom celebration of learning
- have a special [prayer assembly](#) or [Children's Liturgy of the Word](#) for you classroom marking World Day for grandparents and the elderly
- invite a grandparent or elderly person as a guest speaker or visitor
- hold a games afternoon, inviting the children and elderly visitors to teach each other their favourite childhood games.

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Things to do in the classroom

Create a gift that could be given after a classroom prayer or during visitation such as:

- a prayer or scripture card based on the theme. You could make your own or choose on of these: [St Anne and St Joachim prayer card](#), [Isaiah 49:15 scripture card](#).
- a handwritten card
- a drawing or painting of a special memory

Share stories

- Invite students to share photos and stories of their grandparents and the elderly people in their life who inspire them. For example:
 - Something my grandparent is great at...
 - A story they told me...
 - What makes them wise...
- Invite students to interview their grandparents or an elderly person in their life - these [20 questions for my grandparents and elders](#) would make a great start!

Picture books about grandparents and the elderly - there are so many to choose from but here are just a few favourites:

- *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge; Shoes from Grandpa; and Possum Magic* by Mem Fox
- *What Do You Call Your Grandma? and What Do You Call Your Grandpa?* by Ashleigh Barton
- *Grandpa and Thomas* by Pamela Allen
- *On the way to Nana's* by Frances Haji-Ali and Lindsay Haji-Ali
- *Grandmother from the East, Grandmother from the West* by Jacinta Liu
- *Rose Meets Mr Wintergarten* by Bob Graham

Explore and compare

- How has life changed since my grandparents were children? Compare games, school life, recreation, diet, technology to see how much has changed and how much has stayed the same!

Sacred space focus

- In the lead up to the day, create a focus on World Day for grandparents and the elderly in your classroom prayer space or poster wall. Perhaps invite the children to add photos or write the names of people they want to pray for especially that week. Perhaps create a gratitude wall to give thanks for the gift of grandparents.

Connect with your parish

Make the most of the opportunity to connect with the older people of the community through your local parish - this might involve offering to prepare gifts, for the Sunday liturgy on 26th July. Perhaps have classes join the parish for a weekday mass in the week leading up to the day?