



PARISH GRANDPARENTS' GROUPS

THE FAMILY
NEEDS YOU

THE CHURCH
NEEDS YOU

SOCIETY NEEDS YOU



"The prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others."

Pope Benedict 2012

The Diocese has a network of groups of grandparents and older parish members who meet to support each other and to pray for their grandchildren and all young people in today's society.

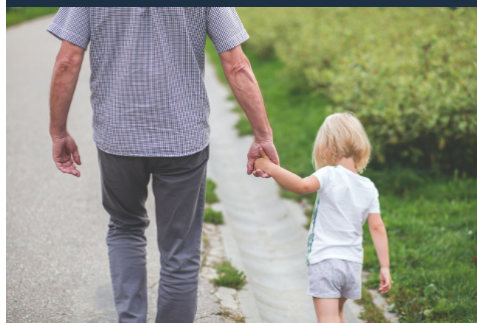
The aims are:

- **To keep prayer at the heart of family life** - letting our families know of our prayers for them, thanking God for all their gifts and talents; praying with them where we can.
- **To pass on the faith** - to help grandparents pass on their faith to the next generation by sustaining and supporting them in their faith through discussion and witness to our lived experience.
- **To support each other** - to create a friendly, inclusive environment for each other where support can be found in prayer and common experience.

By creating awareness of the vital contribution that the older people and grandparents make to church, family, and society we seek to ensure that wisdom is not lost, nor people abandoned. We want to let grandparents know they are valued and supported and to create positive, memorable and joyful experiences for grandparents and grandchildren.

Our groups include grandparents, honorary-grandparents, godparents, and other family members, all caring for the spiritual lives of our young people.

At every meeting we say the Papal Prayer, offer intercessory prayers for our families and parishes, and strengthen our faith by talks, videos and discussion all in confidence. And we have fun!



The Diocese supports Grandparents with annual events in which we can all be involved in 2022. Please go to the Diocesan website and look for events where you can reserve your place.

www.abdiocese.org.uk

Grandparents Annual Formation Event

Autumn 2022

Details to be confirmed.

Grandparents' Pilgrimage to West Grinstead

June 8 from 10.30am - 3.00pm

The day will include Adoration and Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, an opportunity to visit the Secret Chapel (flat shoes advised), Mass with Bishop Richard, and the opportunity to meet and chat with other grandparents.

A & B Grandparents' Weeks

September 24 - October 2

During this week many schools and parishes hold events celebrating the gifts and presence of grandparents. Please do contact your local communities to see how they are going to get involved.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

July 24, 2.30pm, Mass at Arundel Cathedral

The theme for this year is "*In old age they will still bear fruit*" (Psalm 92:15). Pope Francis hopes that celebrating the day will emphasize how grandparents and the elderly are a value and a gift both for society and for ecclesial communities.

CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

As a Diocese we work with the Catholic Grandparents Association.

A message from the Founder;

Grandparents have no agenda, they simply want to do their best for their grandchildren, they want them to be decent human beings, to know the difference between right and wrong, able to make good moral decisions and if they go astray

along the way to be able to find their way back to a loving forgiving non judgmental God. Grandparent's vital contribution to the family, Church and society was never as important as now. We are living in unprecedented times with constantly changing social and moral values. Sometimes we feel we are failing – we are not. We can never fail as long as we keep on doing what we are doing, praying, showing the way and passing on the faith.

Catherine Wiley - Founder

<http://catholicgrandparentsassociation.com>

PAPAL PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Lord Jesus,
you were born of the Virgin Mary,
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.
Look with love on grandparents the world over.
Protect them! They are a source of enrichment
for families, for the Church and for all of society.
Support them! As they grow older,
may they continue to be for their families
strong pillars of Gospel faith,
guardian of noble domestic ideals,
living treasures of sound religious traditions.
Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,
that they may pass on to future generations the fruits
of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus,
help families and society
to value the presence and roles of grandparents.
May they never be ignored or excluded,
but always encounter respect and love.
Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed
in all the years of life which you give them.
Mary, Mother of all the living,
keep grandparents constantly in your care,
accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,
and by your prayers, grant that all families
may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,
where you await all humanity
for the great embrace of life without end.

Amen!



*Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of
Mary, with the Holy Family -
Our Diocesan icon*

“THERE IS NO RETIREMENT AGE FROM THE WORK OF
PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL AND HANDING DOWN
TRADITIONS TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN.”

Pope Francis, 2021



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THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

www.abdiocese.org.uk

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