St. Joachim & St. Anne, Parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus, Pray for us.
Dear Members and Readers,

Welcome to our inaugural edition of the Grandparents News. We wish you peace and blessings.

The main aim of the Catholic Grandparents Association is to assist Grandparents pass on the faith and to value and support them in that role. We also aim to keep prayer at the heart of family life. Our patrons are St. Joachim and St. Anne, Parents of Mary and Grandparents of Jesus.

Since Cardinal Seán Brady launched the CGA in Knock in 2009, we have worked ceaselessly, tirelessly and joyfully on creating awareness for the great vocation of Grandparents, which is the noblest vocation of all because it is rooted in love.

We have travelled the length and breadth of the country and overseas, speaking in churches, establishing branches, hosting workshops and arranging Grandparents’ Pilgrimages. Pilgrimages now take place in Knock, Aylesford, Walsingham, Carfin (Scotland), Palm Beach (USA), Germany, Tanzania, Nigeria, Cambodia and Australia. The pilgrimages are unifying Grandparents in prayer and people tell us that they get great comfort and healing from participating.

The CGA provides a forum, companionship and an outlet for Grandparents to support each other in the great task of passing on the faith. The world as we know it is taking a battering - from natural disasters to social upheaval. We all witnessed the recent reports on television about the riots in England. Society is changing and changing fast. We hear talk about the educational system, the social welfare system and every other system, but never about the faith system - the only system that will never let you down. We have to take responsibility for that. We must put faith back into the system we call ‘everyday living’.

We take our morals and values from the Church and, when our Church is weakened, society is weakened. We need to build up God’s Church on earth. Grandparents were never more important than they are today - to the church, the family and society. Grandparents are needed to support their own children and to instil moral values in their grandchildren.

Anyone can join the CGA! You do not have to be a Grandparent to join! Join us in solidarity, as a branch member or as an individual. Be as active or passive as you like! Whatever you do, don’t stand by and do nothing! Use every God-given opportunity to express and pass on the faith. Don’t be ashamed to make the Sign of the Cross in public, keep the Holy Water Font filled and use it! Sprinkle everyone! Say Grace before Meals, ‘God Bless You’, ‘Please God’, ‘Thank God’, just like your parents did! We want to make sure that our Grandchildren receive the same faith opportunities that we received from our parents and Grandparents. May I recommend that you get a Catholic Grandparents Association bumper sticker, available from our office!

Thanks to all who contributed to this Grandparents News. We hope you all enjoy reading it. Remember, it is important for Grandparents to love and look after each other!

Keep us in your prayers,
Love and prayers,

Catherine Wiley
Founder

---

L-R: MàIRE PRINTER & SUSAN BOYLE

Dear Members,

Since I became President of the CGA, life has changed, not ended! In fact, it was a whole new beginning for me! The Grandparents’ sphere of influence is enormous - emotionally, financially, but most of all, spiritually. Sometimes Grandparents feel they are failing, but they are not, as long as they go on being the role models living their lives, showing the way, praying, they can never fail. Failure is not an option.

I have had the great pleasure of meeting many of you and assisting you to form local branches. In travelling all over Ireland, England, Scotland and America, I have become even more aware of the great need for an association, such as ours.

I urge you to join us in the CGA. It is the most important job you’ll ever do and one from which you’ll never retire. Our legacy is eternity. We are leaving a footprint from this world to the next ...

May God bless and keep you, your children and grandchildren.

Máire Printer
President
Hundreds of people attended the inaugural Catholic Grandparents’ Pilgrimage in Aylesford Priory on Saturday, July 16th, 2011. The event, though dampened by some inclement weather, failed to dampen the spirits of pilgrims on what many people described as an inspirational and uplifting day. The event was organised by an interdiocesan committee from the Archdiocese of Arundel and Brighton, Southwalk, and the Diocese of Brentwood, in association with the Catholic Grandparents Association.

The day was one of faith and fun and included various activities for children, from face-painting, bouncy castles, football and tennis, to the versatile talents of children’s entertainment from Graham and Funforce, while Brentwood Youth Service organised a quiz.

Catherine Wiley, founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association, led a workshop, as did Jane Andrews of the Cabrini Society and Paschal Uche, who welcomed Pope Benedict at Westminster last year on behalf of the Catholic youth of the UK. Their talks all focused on the important role grandparents play in both family life and ‘passing on the faith’.

During the day there were also opportunities to spend quiet prayer time with the Blessed Sacrament and for receiving the sacrament of reconciliation. All children were offered a rosary and prayer sheet. In addition, there was a continuous film show of the resource ‘Home is a Holy Place’, along with a number of other resources in support of both marriage and family, which were provided by all three dioceses.

The day concluded with the Celebration of Mass at the main shrine, led by Bishop John Hine, who has recently been appointed Patron of the Catholic Grandparents Association in England. During his homily he spoke of the fact that it is only in relatively recent times that grandchildren have really been able to know their grandparents. He spoke of the important and essential role that they continue to play in family life. At the end of the Mass he led the release of many balloons, to which a number of children and others had attached prayers and intentions for their own grandparents. Building on the success of this event, planning has now already begun for next year’s pilgrimage!

For further details contact:
Catholic Grandparents Association
(+353) 098-24877
info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com
www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.com

Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!
To all our volunteers who help us in any way - attending meetings, giving our literature, speaking at Masses, leading workshops, giving talks and praying for the CGA. We cannot do it without you - a chain is only as strong as the weakest link.

Míle buíochas!
Good afternoon everyone. My name is Catherine Wiley. I am a native of Castlebar in Co. Mayo, on the west coast of Ireland and I am really delighted to be here with you in Aylesford. I have spent all of my adult life in England.

I am a grandmother of 10 beautiful grandchildren, ranging in ages from 15 years down to 3. My grandchildren live in England and New Zealand and, up until recently, South Africa. Some of my grandchildren are baptised; some are not. Some have fallen away from the faith, and some are divorced. So I am no stranger to the difficulties, challenges and heartache of modern-day Catholic family life.

My faith has always been very important to me throughout my life and has sustained me in all the ups and downs throughout the years. All of us in the Catholic Grandparents Association wish to give the next generation the same opportunities to live in faith that we got from our parents and grandparents.

The Catholic Grandparents Association was a whole new beginning for me, at a time in my life when I had retired and I thought that I was way past any new beginning. You would have thought that if God and Our Lady wanted the faith passed on so badly they would have chosen young, energetic and holy people, not the likes of me and our President, Mairé Printer, who joins me here today. But no, they chose us, as Grandparents. We might make mistakes, but God never makes a mistake. He knows what He is doing!

There are times I can tell you truly that I was in despair, thinking this was not the way forward and that God had made a huge mistake. But amazingly enough, everything seemed to work out as long as I left it to God.

I remember praying at the back of the Church in Lecanvey at the foot of Croagh Patrick outside Westport where I live in Ireland. I was in despair over the CGA, trying to convince God that I was the wrong person and that things would turn into a right mess if I was in charge. I was shouting at God in my head: 'You have to help me. You have to help me.' This was only a few days before the National Grandparents' Pilgrimage in Knock Shrine.

I was in a panic and then that little inner voice started. 'Sure haven't I looked after you all the time? Isn't Cardinal Seán Brady launching the Catholic Grandparents Association?' 'Yes, he is.' I heard myself say. "Hasn't Pope Benedict written a special Prayer for Grandparents at your request?" "Yes, he has." I admitted. "And hasn't Fr. Liam Lawton written a beautiful song for you, honouring Grandparents?" 'Yes, he has,' I could hear myself respond.

At this stage, I was smiling to myself and then it struck me. Sure it wasn't me at all who was doing any of this work. It was the Good Lord. I had to learn to trust God, to let go and let God. It had nothing to do with Catherine Wiley. God was in complete control.

The main aim of the CGA is to help Grandparents pass on the faith to the next generation and to value and support them in that role. The CGA also wants to keep prayer at the heart of family life.

The CGA was inspired by an idea to have a Grandparents’ Pilgrimage to honour and thank St. Joachim and St. Anne, the parents of Mary and the grandparents of Jesus, and to thank and honour all our grandparents for all they have done for us down through the ages, particularly in the passing on of the faith.

In the CGA we have a series of Grandparents’ Pilgrimages throughout the world! They started this week here in Aylesford. Next week we’re in Walsingham. On August 21st we shall be in Carfin, Scotland, for our inaugural Grandparents’ Pilgrimage. Our Irish National Grandparents’ Pilgrimage will be in Our Lady’s Shrine, Knock, on the second Sunday in September, this year 11th September. On October 22nd, we have a Pilgrimage in Palm Beach in the USA. We also have pilgrimages in Nigeria, Tanzania, Cambodia, Germany and Australia.

We launch Children’s Prayer Appeals throughout the countries, inviting children to write prayers for their Grandparents. These are presented at the Offertory during the Pilgrimage Masses.

We organise Grandparents’ Days in Schools - where children can share in the experiences of growing-up, as recounted by their Grandparents. We also organise other faith-filled fun-days throughout the year.

We distribute the Pope’s Universal Prayer for Grandparents. This was especially written by Pope Benedict at our request in 2008.

We set up Branches, based on the parish structure.

I have a dream that there will be a branch of the CGA in every parish in every country so that Grandparents can come together without fear, shame or embarrassment to share their joys and anxieties and help and support each other in the great task of passing on the faith.

When Cardinal Seán Brady launched the CGA in Knock there were 14,000 grandparents present. Imagine the power of that prayer - 14,000 people united with the same aim and same goal - all wanting to do their best for their grandchildren. The CGA was started out of that need, acknowledging, that 14,000 grandparents cannot be wrong - no bystander apathy here!

Grandparents have no agenda - we just want the best for our grandchildren.

The vocation of grandparents is rooted in love. For me, this is the most noble of all vocations. There is a unique bond of trust and love between grandparents and grandchildren. Very often you have a much better relationship with your grandchildren than with your own children.

The grandparents’ sphere of influence is enormous - emotional, financial and, most important of all, spiritual.

Sometimes we grandparents do not realise how POWERFUL we are as role models.
for our children and our grandchildren. Sometimes we feel a failure, but we're not. As long as we go on doing what we're doing - showing the way, being a role model - we can never fail.

**Failure is not an option**

Grandparents will make any sacrifice and do everything in their power to make sure their grandchildren are nurtured, loved and protected.

Some parents want different things for their children - a good education, a good job, financial security or whatever. Grandparents have no agenda - they want their grandchildren to make good decisions and live good, moral lives and, if they go astray, they have a compass to bring them back to a loving, non-judgemental God who is always waiting with open arms.

Being a grandparent is an art - you have to be sensitive, delicate and unobtrusive, know when to give advice and know when to step back and always be there when needed. The wisdom of grandparent will tell them when to step back - which, in some cases, is more important than getting involved, for many reasons.

Grandparents are there to support the parents, not replace them or undermine them.

A loving grandparent can do anything. We live in a multi-cultural and multi-faith world that is becoming more secularised every day. Sometimes your grandparents or great-grandparents can all have different faiths and different expectations!

We live in unprecedented times of broken and fragmented families with constantly changing social and moral values. Our children are under tremendous social pressure to follow the gods of personal freedom, money and success. We do everything we can to support them even though, from time to time, there might be a conflict of ideals. Sometimes we don't know where to go or where to turn to.

Where do we take our values from? We take them from the Church and, when the Church is weakened, society is weakened. We are often told today that the world is better off without the Catholic faith. We are told that Catholicism is backward, that it is intolerant and that the world is now much more forward-thinking and open-minded. But in a way, this is an attack on our generation and on our values. It's true, of course, that past generations didn't have everything right, far from it, just as this generation doesn't have everything right either.

So the Grandparents' Pilgrimages gives us all an opportunity to say thank you to grandparents, and it also affords grandparents an opportunity to thank God for our children and our grandchildren.

Whose job is it to pass on the faith? Nobody seems quite sure! The school says it's the parents' responsibility while parents are leaving it to the schools. A very wise man said to me - Faith is caught, not taught, so we have to make a stand.

Grandparents are vital in passing on the faith.

What will happen after you're gone? There is no time to waste. The next ten years or so are absolutely vital.

I'll bet most of you are worried about the future of our faith. You're right to worry about it and you probably want to know what you can do to pass it on. The answer is 'an awful lot'.

No group has a more important role to play in passing on the faith than grandparents. The reason is because you still treasure the faith, you want to pass it on and you have a great opportunity to pass it on, namely, through your contact with your grandchildren. You have all achieved an enormous amount in your lives already, but there is one incomparable job to do - passing on the faith.

There's not one person here today who is not capable of passing on some aspect of the faith. You don't need a degree in theology.

Read your grandchildren bible stories. Give them a Children's Bible. Children love stories!

Teach them to bless themselves.

Keep holy water in the holy water font.

Tell a child the three names of the Holy Trinity.

Teach a child how to bless themselves.

Say Bedtime Prayers ... "Oh Angel of God, my guardian dear ...".

Have the courage to say Grace before Meals every time you eat with your children and grandchildren. And keep doing it, repeating it every time. Keep saying it. It will stick! "Bless us, O Lord, for these Thy Gifts, which of Thy bounty we are about to receive, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen"

Finally, let me appeal to you to join the Catholic Grandparents Association. It's never too late - God always lets you catch up.

This is the most important job you'll ever do and one from which you'll never retire. Join the CGA and pass on the faith to the next generation.

---

**The CGA is delighted to announce ...**

**that a our office is open at Our Lady's Shrine in Knock!**
A 7-year-old boy approached his Irish Catholic grandmother bearing a gift he had made for her. She asked her unbaptised grandson what it was, as he handed her the long strand of plastic beads. She was intrigued that he knew about the rosary and asked him whether he ever prayed. The boy revealed that he sometimes talked to God quietly in his head after his mother read him his bedtime stories and left him to sleep.

This story expresses one of the challenges grandparents are facing today when their children are no longer active (or very active) in their faith. In this woman’s case, her daughter no longer goes to church and her grandson has never been baptised. Her faith is important to her and she wonders how she can share it across the generations without stepping on her daughter’s toes.

She is not alone; many grandparents have similar concerns. They want their grandchildren to have the chance to know and love God; they want to share their faith with their grandchildren - but, at the same time, they want to respect the fact that parents have the primary responsibility for their children in these matters.

Even when grandparents and parents are in agreement about bringing a child up as a Catholic - and the parents are regularly practising - they may not be in complete agreement about what this means and they may need to identify the complementary roles they play. In addition to providing a crucial link in passing on the faith, grandparents can bring wisdom, stability and love to their families.

The role of grandparents is becoming increasingly significant today. A study on the involvement of grandparents and child well-being, published in May last year in the interdisciplinary research journal Children & Society, made this clear. Under the title “They’ve always been there for me”, it surveyed almost 1,600 young adolescents and reported that the majority of these youngsters saw their mother’s parents either daily or twice a week. In “Listening 2004”, the major research project of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, grandparents expressed a need for support in passing on their faith to their grandchildren. In response, the Celebrating Family initiative has been engaging with the Dioceses of Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Plymouth in a series of directed conversations with parents, grandparents, teachers, parish priests and catechists exploring what it means to socialise, to pray, to exchange grandparenting advice and to plan events such as celebrating the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Jesus’ grandparents. Meetings often take place after one of the Sunday Masses and last between 45 and 90 minutes. The meeting normally begins by lighting a candle and saying together the Pope’s Prayer for Grandparents. It asks Jesus to look with love on grandparents the world over; it asks Him to protect them as living treasures of sound religious tradition and asks Him to help families to value the presence and role of grandparents.

The group catches up on personal news and gives updates about what is happening in the Catholic Grandparents Association. The members may pray for special intentions of people in the group - for grandparents who are struggling, for their children and grandchildren, for those who are sick. The meeting closes
after tea and biscuits and the chance to chat to one another about what is happening in their lives and families.

The bishops’ conference, in partnership with the Catholic Grandparents Association, is developing a handbook and starter pack for parishes to use in organising Grandparent Gatherings. A 2006 report by the Pontifical Council for the Family reminded us that the family has always been a privileged channel for the transmission of the Gospel and when children perceive the generosity and Christian meaning of life through the words and behaviour of their parents and grandparents, they gradually learn to follow their example and are orientated towards religious values.

Being a grandparent is a tremendous and incredible joy. It outweighs all the difficulties we might encounter; it is a vocation rooted in love. Much has been written about the “power of a praying parent”. Now is the time to begin talking about the “power of praying grandparents” too.

KELSEY CLEMSON, A STUDENT OF NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY, USA, IS A GRANDPARENTS NETWORK INTERN AT THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE PROJECT OFFICE OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS’ CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.CATHOLICGRANDPARENTSASSOCIATION.COM AND WWW.PASSINGONTHEFAITH.ORG.UK OR VISIT THE CGA FACEBOOK PAGE.

**Grandparents’ Day in School - Initiated by the CGA**

The grandparents who visited on the day spent a lot of time preparing for the occasion, and children had an opportunity to hear what life was like in Westport before the arrival of electricity; how the Quay area has changed and also about the old Quay School which was in use up until 1989.

Children were fascinated by the stories the grandparents told and a wonderful question and answer session followed.

The history of Westport was brought to life for all classes as they managed to identify with some of their local heritage.

The grandparents gave children the opportunity to see another side of Westport and, more importantly, gave them insight into what life was like in the recent past.

The school wishes to thank the grandparents who visited on the day and shared their knowledge with an inquisitive audience.

The pupils in the Quay School were given a wonderful treat on Tuesday, February 15th, when a large number of grandparents visited the various classes and spoke to the children about what life was like many years ago.
GRANDPARENTS AND ACCESS RIGHTS TO THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

There has been a lot of talk about grandparents access rights to their grandchildren. The issue is also a hot topic in Britain. The following excerpt is from the website of a British-based legal firm, Morton Fraser. The article was posted on 5th April, 2011. (www.morton-fraser.com/news/1461_grandparents_rights)

You may have noticed commentary in the press this month (March 2011) indicating that grandparents in England and Wales are supposedly gaining additional rights in relation to contact with their grandchildren, when the parents separate. This isn’t quite correct. What has happened is that an Interim Report has been published by the Family Justice Review in England, which includes some discussion about grandparents’ rights.

In England, if a grandparent wishes to seek contact with a grandchild via the Court system, he or she first of all needs to seek leave (consent) from the Court, before making an application for contact. The Report considered whether this position should change, and concluded that no change was needed. There were various reasons for this. Firstly, it was considered that the Courts are not refusing leave to apply unreasonably, and that the process for seeking this was now slow or expensive. Secondly, the Report points out that grandparents don’t have an automatic “right” to contact their grandchildren, in the same way that parents don’t always have a right to contact - the Report comments that contact is the right of the child. Lastly, the Report considers that the need to seek leave to apply to Court may deter hopeless or vexatious court actions.

What about the position in Scotland?
Scottish law regarding grandparents’ rights was similarly reviewed in 2005, prior to the Family Law (Scotland) Act, 2006. Again, it was decided that no change was needed. In Scotland, if a grandparent seeks an order for contact with a grandchild through the Court, he or she must first of all seek an award of parental responsibilities and rights. It was concluded that grandparents should not automatically have such parental responsibilities and rights; even if they did, it may not make much difference on an application to Court for a contact order. The same test would be applied - the grandparent would still have to convince the Court that contact was in the child’s best interests. They would also need to demonstrate that an order is necessary.

It is clear that grandparents often play an important and highly-valued role in children’s lives. But further tweaking with the law to provide “rights” for grandparents after a separation is unlikely to help. It is not difficult to imagine scenarios where well-meaning grandparents may seek to exercise such “rights” inappropriately, to the prejudice of the child’s parents, and ultimately to the prejudice of the child. The fact is that when parents want the grandparents to have contact, they generally ensure that it happens. The hypothetical situation being considered is one where, for whatever reason, one or both of the parents do not want the grandparents to have contact, and in those circumstances there would most likely be court involvement anyway.

In summary, grandchildren are generally not prejudiced by the grandparents’ lack of parental rights and responsibilities. Ultimately, it is for the court to determine whether a child will benefit from an order being made in favour of grandparents.

The Bishop of Kerry, Bill Murphy, with Máire Printer, CGA President, and Catherine Wiley, CGA Founder.

Máire and Catherine spoke in Killarney Cathedral, Muckross Church and the Church of the Resurrection during a visit to Killarney parish in August 2011. Bishop Murphy and his priests were wonderful hosts.

“The Bishop made us feel most welcome and is so supportive of the work of the CGA. He is a real inspiration for us,” said Catherine Wiley. Máire Printer paid tribute to the priests and parish staff, saying they were most encouraging. “The visit was wonderful. They were all so kind and helpful. Killarney has more than physical beauty; it has a truly spiritual ambience, thanks to the Bishop, priests and the people,” said Máire Printer.
UK to Recognise Grandparents' Rights to See Children

Grandparents in the UK are to be given the legal right to continue seeing their grandchildren after a family breakdown or divorce.

An official report has recommended that access for grandparents should be made law.

"It will mean putting into law a recognition for grandparents and the important role they can play in supporting children who are involved in bitter custody disputes", said an informed source.

At present grandparents have no right to keep in touch and must apply to the courts just to get permission to make a request for some sort of contact.

The move aims to recognise the growing role grandparents play in society, helping with childcare and financial support, and providing advice and emotional support to older children.

Parents whose son is involved in a separation are most likely to lose contact with the grandparents as the mother usually gets custody of them.

Grandparents may also be given greater custody rights where there is a danger that children will be taken into care.

There is a fear, however, that a change in the present law may make access agreements more complicated. A mother, for example, might have to maintain contact with both her children's father and his parents.

But campaigners for grandparents' rights will welcome the change, having argued for years that their role in creating strong families needs to be better recognised.

Published in Alive, May 2011.

Bishop Michael Evans - Requiescat in Pace

It is with deep regret that the Catholic Grandparents Association has learned of the death of Bishop Michael Evans, Bishop of East Anglia, our former patron in England. Bishop Evans died in hospital on Monday, July 11th, 2011 at the age of 59, after a long battle with prostate cancer.

CGA founder, Catherine Wiley said: "Bishop Michael was an extremely holy and sellsmen man. He was a man of God who blessed us as Patron of the CGA in England. We shall miss him, his humour and his unending awe at the graciousness of God's love. May his gentle soul rest in peace and may he be rewarded for his labours."

A statement from the diocese says that Bishop Evans was admitted to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital on the previous Thursday morning, after he collapsed at home. He never regained consciousness, but was peaceful throughout the period leading up to his death. He was cared for by his clergy and friends during this period, and enjoyed superb care from all at the hospital.

The BBC reports that Bishop Evans, the leader of Catholics in Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Norfolk, carried out limited engagements as his condition deteriorated.

Canon Evans was appointed the third Bishop of East Anglia in February 2003 by Pope John Paul II and was ordained at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Norwich, in March of that year. He was previously parish priest at St. Augustine's in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

On his appointment, Canon Evans said: "I was astonished to be appointed as Bishop of East Anglia and have a real sense of my unworthiness for this responsibility, but I accepted this new ministry with a joyful, though nervous, 'yes'.

He became well-known throughout the diocese for his teaching and set-up an annual adult religious education programme.

He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Southwark in 1973, and spent two years as assistant priest at St. Elizabeth's in Richmond, Surrey.

From 1977-1979 he studied for a Master of Theology degree at Heythrop College, University of London, and then returned to St. John's Seminary for eight years as lecturer in Christian doctrine.

From 1985-1987 he was Vice-Rectar in the seminary, with the then Monsignor Peter Smith (later the second Bishop of East Anglia, and now Archbishop of Southwark) as Rector.

Bishop Evans was the Patron of the Catholic Grandparents Association in England up until recently when he blessed the appointment of Bishop John Hine, Bishop of Southwark as Patron.
and life becomes good.

Livia: “Holy Father, before the day of my First Communion I went to confession. I have also been to confession on other occasions. I wanted to ask you: Do I have to go to confession every time I receive Communion, even when I have committed the same sins? Because I realize that they are always the same.”

Benedict XVI: “I will tell you two things. The first, of course, is that you do not always have to go to confessions before you receive Communion unless you have committed such serious sins that they need to be confessed. Therefore, it is not necessary to make one’s confession before every Eucharistic Communion. This is the first point. It is only necessary when you have committed a really serious sin, when you have deeply offended Jesus, so that your friendship is destroyed and you have to start again. Only in that case, when you are in a state of ‘mortal’ sin, in other words, grave [sin], is it necessary to go to confession before Communion. This is my first point.

My second point: Even if, as I said, it is not necessary to go to confession before each Communion, it is very helpful to confess with a certain regularity. It is true: our sins are always the same, but we clean our homes, our rooms, at least once a week, even if the dirt is always the same, in order to live in cleanliness, in order to start again. Otherwise, the dirt might not be seen but it builds up.

Something similar can be said about the soul. For me, myself, if I never go to confession my soul is neglected and in the end I am always pleased with myself and no longer understand that I must always work hard to improve, that I must make progress. And this cleansing of the soul, which Jesus gives us in the sacrament of confession, helps us to make our consciences more alert, more open and, hence, it also helps us to mature spiritually and as human persons. Therefore, two things: Confession is only necessary in the case of a serious sin, but it is very helpful to confess regularly in order to foster the cleanliness and beauty of the soul and to mature day by day in life.

Andrea: “In preparing me for my First Communion day, my catechist told me that Jesus is present in the Eucharist. But how? I can’t see Him!”

Benedict XVI: “No, we cannot see Him, but there are many things that we do not see but they exist and are essential. For example, we do not see our reason, yet we have reason. We do not see our intelligence and we have it. In a word, we do not see our soul and yet it exists and we see its effects, because we can speak, think and make decisions, etc. Nor do we see an electric current, for example, yet we see that it exists; we see this microphone, that it is working, and we see lights. Therefore, we do not see the very deepest things, those that really sustain life and the world, but we can see and feel their effects. This is also true for electricity: we do not see the electric current, but we see the light. So it is with the Risen Lord: We do not see Him with our eyes, but we see that wherever Jesus is, people change, they improve. A greater capacity for peace, for reconciliation, etc., is created. Therefore, we do not see the Lord Himself, but we see the effects of the Lord, so we can understand that Jesus is present. And, as I said, it is precisely the invisible things that are the most profound, the most important. So, let us go to meet this invisible, but powerful Lord, who helps us to live well.”

Giulia: “Your Holiness, everyone tells us
that is important to go to Mass on Sunday. We would gladly go to it, but often our parents do not take us because on Sundays they sleep. The parents of a friend of mine work in a shop, and we often go to the country to visit our grandparents. Could you say something to them, to make them understand that it is important to go to Mass together on Sundays?"

**Benedict XVI:** “I would think so, of course, with great love and respect for your parents, because they certainly have a lot to do. However, with a daughter’s respect and love, you could say to them: ‘Dear Mommy, dear Daddy, it is so important for us all, even for you, to meet Jesus. This encounter enriches us. It is an important element in our lives. Let’s find a little time together; we can find an opportunity. Perhaps there is also a possibility where Grandma lives.’”

In brief, I would say, with great love and respect for your parents, because they certainly have a lot to do. However, with a daughter’s respect and love, you could say to them: ‘Dear Mommy, dear Daddy, it is so important for us all, even for you, to meet Jesus. This encounter enriches us. It is an important element in our lives. Let’s find a little time together; we can find an opportunity. Perhaps there is also a possibility where Grandma lives.’”

**Alessandro:** “What good does it do for our everyday life to go to holy Mass and receive Communion?”

**Benedict XVI:** “It centres life. We live amid so many things. And the people who do not go to church do not know that it is precisely Jesus they lack. But they feel that something is missing in their lives. If God is absent from my life, if Jesus is absent from my life, a guide, an essential friend is missing, even an important joy for life, the strength to grow as a man, to overcome my vices and mature as a human being. Therefore, we cannot immediately see the effects of being with Jesus and of going to Communion. But, with the passing of the weeks and years, we feel more and more keenly the absence of God, the absence of Jesus. It is a fundamental and destructive incompleteness. I could easily speak of countries where atheism has prevailed for years; how souls are destroyed, but also the earth. In this way, we can see that it is important and, I would say, fundamental to be nourished by Jesus in Communion. It is He who gives us enlightenment, offers us guidance for our lives, a guidance that we need.”

**Anna:** “Dear Pope, can you explain to us what Jesus meant when He said to the people who were following Him: ‘I am the bread of life?’”

**Benedict XVI:** “First of all, perhaps we should explain clearly what bread is. Today, we have a refined cuisine, rich in very different foods, but in simpler situations bread is the basic source of nourishment and, when Jesus called Himself ‘the bread of life’, the bread is, shall we say, the initial, an abbreviation that stands for all nourishment. And, as we need to nourish our bodies in order to live, so we also need to nourish our spirits, our souls and our wills. As human persons, we do not only have bodies but also souls; we are thinking beings with minds and wills. We must also nourish our spirits and our souls, so that they can develop and truly attain their fulfillment. And, therefore, if Jesus says: ‘I am the bread of life’, it means that Jesus Himself is the nourishment we need for our soul, for our inner self, because the soul also needs food. And technical things do not suffice, although they are so important. We really need God’s friendship, which helps us to make the right decisions. We need to mature as human beings. In other words, Jesus nourishes us so that we can truly become mature people and our lives become good.”

**Adriano:** “Holy Father, they’ve told us that today we will have Eucharistic adoration. What is it? How is it done? Can you explain it to us? Thank you.”

**Benedict XVI:** “We will see straight away what adoration is and how it is done, because everything has been properly prepared for it. We will say prayers, we will sing, kneel and, in this way, we will be in Jesus’ presence. But, of course, your question requires a deeper answer; not only how you do adoration, but what adoration is. I would say Adoration is recognising that Jesus is my Lord, that Jesus shows me the way to take, and that I will live well only if I know the road that Jesus points out and follow the path He shows me.

Therefore, adoration means saying: ‘Jesus, I am Yours. I will follow You in my life. I never want to lose this friendship, this communion with You.’ I could also say that adoration is essentially an embrace with Jesus in which I say to Him: ‘I am Yours and I ask You, please stay with me always.’”

**ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER AT THE CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

“Dear boys and girls, brothers and sisters, at the end of this very beautiful meeting, I can find one word only: Thanks. Thank you for this feast of faith. Thank you for this meeting with each other and with Jesus. And thank you, it goes without saying, to all those who made this celebration possible: to the Catechists, the Priests, the Sisters, to you all.

I repeat at the end the words of the beginning of every liturgy and I say to you: “Peace be with you,” that is, may the Lord be with you, may joy be with you and, thus, may life be good. Have a good Sunday, good night and goodbye all together with the Lord. Thank you very much!”

[Translation issued by the Holy See; adapted here].
CORK’S LITTLE NELLIE


Nellie Organ, better known as “Little Nellie of Holy God” was born in the Artillery Barracks in Waterford on August 24th, 1903 and was baptised in the Old Ballybricken Church. This saintly child was the daughter of humble Catholic parents, whose only inheritance was a sterling Irish faith. She was the fourth child of William Organ of Dungarvan - her mother being Mary Aherne of Portlaw. In 1905, her father, being a member of the Royal Artillery, was transferred with his family to Spike Island in Cork, and it was here that her mother’s health quickly deteriorated and she died from tuberculosis in January of 1907. Due to his duties as a soldier, her father was unable to care for his young children, and so they were placed in orphanages - Nellie and her sister being put in care of the Good Shepherd Sisters at their Industrial School in Sunday’s Well, Cork.

It was soon discovered that the child was suffering from lung tuberculosis and curvature of the spine and, as her frail little body wasted away, her heart and soul opened to the love of God and to the illumination of His grace to an extraordinary degree. This little angel had a remarkable intuition concerning the Real Presence, and her progress in religious knowledge and growth in holiness, truly amazed the good Sisters. In fact, there were many extraordinary spiritual facts attested by the Sisters who witnessed them. The long hours she spent in “talking to Holy God”, and the secrets He revealed to her, convinced those who came in contact with her of her unusual sanctity.

She lived continuously in the presence of the “Holy God”, and her hunger to receive Him in Holy Communion was so intense that the Bishop of Cork permitted her to make her Holy Communion at the tender age of four and a half, a permission which was most unusual at that time. She was taken to her heavenly home on February 2nd, 1908 and was laid to rest in the public cemetery of St. Joseph, where her grave became a shrine at which it was rumoured that many found peace and consolation. About a year and a half after her death, her body was transferred from St. Joseph’s to the Convent Cemetery at Sunday’s Well. At the disinterment her remains were found to be intact, the fingers quite flexible and her clothing exactly as it was on the day of her death. Pope Pius the Tenth (now St. Pius) named Little Nellie as the Model of the Child Communicant which influenced his decision to encourage early and frequent Communion.

THE 9TH ANNUAL WORLDWIDE CHILDREN’S EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

On First Friday, October 7th, 2011, Feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the World Apostolate of Fatima and the Pontifical Mission Society of the Holy Childhood Association will be sponsoring the 9th Annual Worldwide Children’s Eucharistic Holy Hour.

Priests, teachers and parents throughout the world will be gathering the children in their care before the most Blessed Sacrament to spiritually unite in following the Way of the Little Shepherds of Fatima, praying to “console the Hidden Jesus”, and praying for peace and for families, a mission entrusted to them by Blessed John Paul II in his Christmas Letter to the Children of the World following the close of the International Year of the Family in 1994.

The Holy Hour has received an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Benedict XVI and has been presided over by Bishop Robert Finn, Archbishop Gregory Aymond, and Father Patrick Byrne, General Secretary of the Holy Childhood Association. Eternal Word Television Network (ETWN) broadcasts the Children’s Holy Hour live to over 140 nations from its epicenter, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.

The programme is easy, free and spiritually powerful. It was just days after Pope Benedict asked the children of the world to pray for an end to World War I, saying that “the prayers of children are so irresistible” that Heaven responded by Our Lady coming to the three little shepherds of Fatima to say: “The War will soon end.”

Our world today is in need of a great grace. To open the ‘floodgates of grace and mercy’ upon our world, let us spiritually unite the prayers of our children and present them to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for her to present to her Divine Son.

For more information, you can visit: www.childrenoftheeucharist.org to review the programme.
THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE, Knock, June 25-26, 2011.

One of the key moments in the pastoral preparation for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress was the celebration of a short National Eucharistic Congress on June 25th and 26th of this year.

People from every diocese gathered together in Knock on June 25th and there was a liturgical celebration in each diocese the following day, June 26th, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. The Catholic Grandparents Association was allocated the hour between 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon on June 25th in Knock. All grandparents were invited to join us in prayer on the day. Those who were unable to attend, joined us in spirit.

REMEMBER!

PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO OTHER GRANDPARENTS. Spread the good news about the CGA! NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. AND YOU DON’T EVEN HAVE TO ATTEND MEETINGS IF YOU DON’T WANT TO! Just join up and keep us in the prayers!


“It is the simple fact that not all religions are the same and, in particular, not all forms of denominational education and schooling are the same. Accordingly, it is mistaken to imagine that a distinction between acceptable and unacceptable educational practice (from whatever perspective) can simply be drawn onto the distinction between a religious and a secular school ethos. For there are, in principle, more and less philosophically-justified, educationally-informed, rights-compliant, etc. (i.e. more and less reasonable) forms of religious and secular education alike.

One way in which this mistake is manifested is by the use of the highly pejorative term ‘indoctrination’ to speak of any form of education which directly advocates or significantly presupposes the truth of a religious claim. Such use of the term is unreasonable and unjustifiably offensive. Indoctrination implicitly suggests a strategy whereby a teacher deliberately seeks to suppress or bypass a student’s capacity for rational thought or to frustrate the very development of such a capacity.

Clearly such strategies may be used for a variety of purposes, religious or secular, and by a variety of agents, e.g., the State, advertisers, teachers, parents, peers, etc. There is simply no basis, other than prejudice, for equating such a strategy with the activity per se of education in and from a religious tradition, for (as noted above) all education must necessarily take place in the context of some tradition (whether realised and articulated or not). Moreover it is a grave insult to the vast majority of Irish teachers (and to the various patrons and parents whose ethos they work conscientiously to uphold) to suggest that they are engaged in the indoctrination of their students, that is to say, in the deliberate harming of their students by interference in the development and use of their natural capacity for reasoning.

Ultimately, all schools, whatever their ethos, should be required to satisfy certain basic standards in the manner and content of their teaching in order to protect the best interests of the students. Such standards have been the subject of considerable study and sophisticated elaboration by educationalists, very often by those working within the Christian tradition, and there is absolutely no reason to believe that schools in Ireland with a religious ethos are less likely to meet such standards simply because of that ethos. Accordingly, the Iona Institute would strongly recommend the IHRC to avoid any use of the term ‘indoctrination’ that equates it with education of or from a religious perspective, rather than with a particular type of (unacceptable) teaching method (as described above), a method, incidentally, which is totally rejected, for example, by all Catholic theories of education.”

THE CHILDREN’S BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION PRAYER CARD

The CGA has produced a new prayer card for use by grandparents and grandchildren in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Supported by The New Evangelisation Trust, the card, which is an initiative ahead of the Eucharistic Congress in Ireland 2012, will be available from our office. Price €2.
Earthquake Prayer

Lord, at times such as this,
when we realise that the ground beneath our feet
is not as solid as we imagined,
we plead for Your mercy.

As the things we have built crumble about us,
we know too well how small we truly are
on this ever-changing, ever-moving,
fragile planet we call home.
Yet You have promised never to forget us.
Do not forget us now.

Today, so many people are afraid;
They wait in fear of the next tremor;
They hear the cries of the injured amid the rubble;
They roam the streets in shock at what they see.
And they fill the dusty air with wails of grief
and the names of missing dead.

Comfort them, Lord, in this disaster.
Be their rock when the earth refuses to stand still,
and shelter them under Your wings
when homes no longer exist.

Embrace in Your arms those who died so suddenly;
Console the hearts of those who mourn,
and ease the pain of bodies on the brink of death.

Pierce, too, our hearts with compassion,
we who watch from afar.
Move us to act swiftly this day,
to pray and give generously every day,
to work for justice always,
and to pray unceasingly for those without hope.

And, once the shaking has ceased;
the images of destruction
have stopped filling the news,
and our thoughts return to life’s daily rumblings,
let us not forget that we are all Your children
and they, our brothers and sisters.
We are all the work of Your hands.

For, though the mountains leave their place
and the hills be tossed to the ground,
Your love shall never leave us,
and Your promise of peace will never be shaken.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
now and forever. Amen.

Submitted by Mags O’Toole who was in New Zealand visiting family when the earthquake struck in Feb. 2011.
LORD, TEACH ME HOW TO GROW OLD

Help me to recognise the good things in my life; grant me the courage to accept my limitations ceding my place to others without resentment or complaint.

May I grow out of my attachment to things, seeing in this process a wise law of Your Providence which regulates time and presides over the life of generations.

Grant Lord, that I may still be of some use to the world, through doing my small jobs, but more importantly through the witness of my patience and goodness, my serenity, my joy and peace.

Give me, Lord, Your strength to face up to the difficulties of each day, and especially to sickness and to loneliness.

May the last years of my mortal life be a happy sunset. In prayer and charity, understanding and hope, may I know how to grow old and to die with the kind of serenity and courage that You, Lord, showed on the cross, so that one day I may rise to the glory of Your Father and our Father, and to meet those who have gone before me! Amen.
Pat Jennings, entrepreneur, community activist and philanthropist, has been selected Mayo Person of the Year 2011, for putting his far-seeing business acumen in the service of his native Castlebar, the County of Mayo and the Province of Connacht, at a time of devastating economic crisis for Ireland. With his wife, Mary, he has expanded the boundaries of his inherited family hotel and dancehall business by creating an entertainment-hospitality-shopping complex of stunning dimensions. The Travellers Friend Hotel, affectionately known locally as ‘The TF’, was the foundation stone on which his late parents, Pat and Mary B., from the 1950s, built the Royal Ballroom for the Showband era and hosted the annual Castlebar Song Contest.

Said proposers, Paddy McGuinness and Johnny Mee: “For a businessman to invest in his business is nothing new. What marks Pat Jennings apart is the vision and courage he brought to his expansion.” The TFR Event Centre brings to Castlebar top-rank entertainers - from The Saw Doctors to Jedward, from Riverdance to the first ever Disney Show in Connacht, from Kenny Rogers and Kris Kristofferson to Susan Boyle and Imelda May. These events attract huge attendances from all over Connacht and nationally, with many patrons availing of weekend visits to add considerably to the local economy. He was the founder of the Castlebar Blues Festival and, in 2008, he was joint promoter of the Beat on the Peat function in New York at which 25,000 Irish-Americans celebrated Ireland’s culture and heritage.

Among Pat’s causes are the Mayo County Council Arts Career Day and Special Olympics ‘Our Schools Got Talent’. In the TF and The Harlequin, the International Humbert Summer School has found an ideal headquarters for its annual lectures and debates. He is one of the biggest donors to sport (cycling, GAA and car rally), the arts (including the annual pantomime), and other charitable events, much of it unpublicised. For five years he served on the Board of Western Care Association and he assisted Temple Street Childrens’ Hospital raise €60,000.

A past president and vice-president of Castlebar Chamber of Commerce, he acquired new offices for it, and promoted the introduction of digital communications for ‘the information age’. He was to the fore in twinning Castlebar with the Bavarian town of Hoechstadt and has supported the new ‘Destination Castlebar’ tourism initiative. One of the biggest job creators in Mayo, he employs 220 people, with a turnover of €9.5 million. This remarkable achievement in the current recession offers hope and inspiration for Mayo’s future.

We, the Judges, are delighted to name Pat Jennings the Mayo Person of the Year.

---

Our new Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, is being prayed for by many grandparents ...

... that he will have the courage and strength to tackle the country’s financial problems. We might be financially bankrupt, but we are not morally bankrupt. Grandparents can provide a ‘prayer ring of steel’ around the country asking for God’s protection in these difficult times. It can be so easy to be critical of politicians - they need our prayers more than our criticism! An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, hails from Islandeady, Castlebar, where he was baptised and received the sacraments. He is prayed for regularly in his home parish of St. Patrick’s, Islandeady, under the stewardship of Fr. Pat Donnellan, PP. Prayers and blessings also on our president, Mary McAleese and her husband, Martin, and family. The President’s term will come to an end later this year. She is wished every blessing. Comhghairdeas to the President and her husband for their great dignity and honour during the State visits of Queen Elizabeth II and President Barack Obama.

---

Our new Taoiseach Enda Kenny, is being prayed for by many grandparents ...
A RECIPE FOR A HAPPY LIFE

Live each day to the fullest.
Get the most from each day
and each age of your life.
Then you can look forward with
certainty that it will be a good day.
Be yourself but be your best self.
Dare to be different and follow your own star.
Don’t be afraid to be happy.
Enjoy what is beautiful.
Love with all your heart and soul.
Believe that those you love, love you.
Forget what you have done for friends
and remember what they have done for you.
Disregard what the world owes you and
concentrate on what you owe the world.
When you are faced with a decision, make
that decision as wisely as possible - then, forget it.
The moment of absolute certainty never arrives.
Above all, remember that God
helps those who help themselves.
Act as if everything depended upon you
and pray as if everything depended on God. Amen.

GRANDPARENTS' CENTRAL ROLE IN WORLD YOUTH DAY

GRANDPARENTS ARE BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD YOUTH DAY ... NOT JUST WATCH AS SPECTATORS.

World Youth Day organisers have created a Grandparent’s Club for those who are over 60.

15,211 membership cards were sent out to Grandparents across Madrid and are being made available online to Grandparents around the world. Club members agree to fulfill a list of duties, like praying for spiritual fruit of World Youth Day, encouraging and helping their grandchildren to register for World Youth Day, encouraging other grandparents to join the club, and volunteering at a local parish or pilgrims welcome centre, if possible.

The music for the campaign is provided by the Duo Dinamico, a Spanish music duo who climbed the charts in the 60s and won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1968. They went on to write and produce for artists, including Julio Iglesias.

Duo Dinamico released the rights to an unedited version of their song “Somos Jovenes” for use in this campaign. Duo Dinamico is made up of Manuel de la Calva and Ramón Arcusa, who said: “This event promises to be positive in that it promotes all the values we need to instill in our youth: education, family values, and living together in society in general.”

If you want to be a member of the Club, please contact: abuelos@jm2011madrid.com

PAPAL ENVOY, ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST FROM CANADA HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT THE CGA ON A RECENT VISIT TO IRELAND:

... Another encouraging sign that I saw in place was the formation of an association for Catholic Grandparents, ‘The Catholic Grandparents Association’ in the west of Ireland. This association has already had positive effects in many other countries such as Australia, England, Germany, the Holy Land, Tanzania and the USA. This group was formed in the Archdiocese of Tuam, thanks to a grandmother, Mrs. Catherine Wiley. Her goal is to help grandparents to fulfil the vital role of passing on their traditional faith to the young people of today. Amongst the numerous activities undertaken by the group, the main one is the pilgrimage and it is by far the most important.”
In March 2011, those seeking to create a Europe which has driven religion from the public arena suffered a big set-back in the European Court of Human Rights.

The Court ruled that the 47 member-states of the Council of Europe (including Ireland), are not violating anyone's rights by displaying religious symbols like the crucifix in public places like the walls of State classrooms.

The ruling means that those who, over the last few years, have banned religious symbols from public places, extending even to cribs, can no longer look to the Convention for comfort. No-one's rights are violated because they see a particular religious object in a public place, even if the public place is owned by the State. The argument, 'I'm offended', isn't going to work anymore.

The decision overturned a previous ruling by the same court in November 2009 when it found in favour of a Finnish woman living in Italy, Soile Lautsi, an atheist, who complained that her right to freedom of religion had been violated because her children were exposed to the crucifix in State schools.

The decision caused uproar in Italy and was even condemned by parties that are traditionally anti-clerical. Twenty other countries as diverse as Norway and Greece joined Italy in condemning the decision and ten joined Italy's appeal against the ruling. (Notably Ireland did not condemn the decision or join the appeal).

On Friday, by a margin of 15 to 2 (one of the 15 being Ireland's Ann Power) the Grand Chamber of the Court found that the initial decision was flawed.

It held that member-states should be free to decide these matters themselves, meaning it fell within their 'margin of appreciation'.

It held that displaying the crucifix did not in itself amount to "indoctrination". This was a crucial point worth quoting in full: "There is no evidence before the Court that the display of a religious symbol on classroom walls may have an influence on pupils and so it cannot reasonably be asserted that it does or does not have an effect on young persons whose convictions are still in the process of being formed."

"[I]t is true that by prescribing the presence of crucifixes in State school classrooms - a sign which, whether or not it is accorded in addition a secular symbolic value, undoubtedly refers to Christianity - the regulations confer on the country's majority religion preponderant visibility in the school environment.

That is not in itself sufficient, however, to denote a process of indoctrination on the respondent State's part and establish a breach of the requirements of Article 2 of Protocol No. 1."

It held that, when dealing with sensitive cultural and religious issues, States who are members of the Council of Europe have "a wide margin of appreciation".

The Grand Chamber rejected the original ECHR finding that the Crucifixes represented "powerful external symbols" which unduly influence pupils.

It held that, "the decision whether or not to perpetuate a tradition falls in principle within the margin of appreciation of the respondent State".

It added: "The Court must moreover take into account the fact that Europe is marked by a great diversity between the States of which it is composed, particularly in the sphere of cultural and historical development.

The decision recognised State sovereignty in this area, and accepted that States are allowed to give recognition to the majority religion of the State and to their national and cultural heritage, meaning in the case of a country like Italy (or Ireland), Christianity.

This decision needs to be made known as far and wide as possible and the fight-back against these secular killjoys should begin, ideally next Christmas when they try once again to forbid a few more cribs from being displayed.

(A final thought, had the original decision stood, we would probably have had to say goodbye to the Angelus since RTE is the national broadcaster).

FROM: www.IONAINSTITUTE.IE
Sunday, September 11th, 2011 is this year’s date for our National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Our Lady’s Shrine, Knock, Ireland. Upwards of 15,000 pilgrims are expected, with the Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Michael Neary, as Chief Celebrant. EWTN’s Kathy Sinnott will give a reflection.

Fr. Liam Lawton and Ann Marie Gibbons are guest singers with choral singing by the Mayo School of Music Youth Choir and Our Lady’s Choir, Castlebar. Anointing of the Sick will start at 2.30 p.m., followed by Mass at 3.00 p.m. and the Rosary.

The Priory, Aylesford, Kent, hosted a Grandparents’ Pilgrimage on Saturday, July 16th, 2011 from 11.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. It was a day of fun for all the family!

Saturday, July 23rd, 2011 was the date for the Grandparents’ Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham, Norfolk. Bishop Brian Noble was the Chief Celebrant. The day started with Mass at 12 noon, followed by a Children’s Liturgy, fun and games, with a reflection by CGA founder, Catherine Wiley.

Carfin Grotto hosted the inaugural Scottish Grandparents Pilgrimage on Sunday, August 21st, 2011 (see page 20 for details). Bishop Peter Moran was the Chief Celebrant. The pilgrimage started at 2.00 p.m.

Plans are also underway for Grandparents’ Pilgrimages in America, Germany, Austria and Nigeria.

Sunday, September 11th, 2011 is this year’s date for our National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Our Lady’s Shrine, Knock, Ireland. Upwards of 15,000 pilgrims are expected, with the Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Michael Neary, as Chief Celebrant. EWTN’s Kathy Sinnott will give a reflection.

Fr. Liam Lawton and Ann Marie Gibbons are guest singers with choral singing by the Mayo School of Music Youth Choir and Our Lady’s Choir, Castlebar. Anointing of the Sick will start at 2.30 p.m., followed by Mass at 3.00 p.m. and the Rosary.

The Priory, Aylesford, Kent, hosted a Grandparents’ Pilgrimage on Saturday, July 16th, 2011 from 11.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. It was a day of fun for all the family!

Saturday, July 23rd, 2011 was the date for the Grandparents’ Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham, Norfolk. Bishop Brian Noble was the Chief Celebrant. The day started with Mass at 12 noon, followed by a Children’s Liturgy, fun and games, with a reflection by CGA founder, Catherine Wiley.

Carfin Grotto hosted the inaugural Scottish Grandparents Pilgrimage on Sunday, August 21st, 2011 (see page 20 for details). Bishop Peter Moran was the Chief Celebrant. The pilgrimage started at 2.00 p.m.

Plans are also underway for Grandparents’ Pilgrimages in America, Germany, Austria and Nigeria.

St. Martin’s Rosary Group

Ardowen Community Centre
Parish of Moyraverty
10 Tullygally Road, Legahory, Craigavon, Co. Armagh BT65 5BL.
Telephone: (028) 3834 3013
Fax: (028) 3834 6271
Email: moyraverty@hotmail.com

St. Paul’s Children’s Rosary Group
Meets: 6.15 - 6.45 p.m. in the Candle Room on the First Tuesday of every month:
Tuesday, August 2nd; Tuesday, September 6th;
Tuesday, October 4th; Tuesday, November 1st;
Tuesday, December 6th.

Fr. M. Maginn, PP: (028) 3832 7173; Fr. A. McMahon CC: (028) 3832 6883.
Secretary: laurav@hotmail.co.uk; Parish Office: (028) 3832 1289/Fax: 3832 2090.

The Catholic Grandparents Association was formally launched in 2009 in Our Lady’s Shrine, Knock, Ireland, by Cardinal Seán Brady. It was set up by Catherine Wiley, a grandmother of 10, to honour St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of Mary and grandparents of Jesus, and to provide supports for grandparents in passing on the faith and to keep prayer at the heart of family life. This is done through Grandparents’ Pilgrimages - 2011 Pilgrimages: Aylesford, England, July 16th; Walsingham, England, July 23rd; Carfin, Scotland, August 21st; Knock, Ireland, September 11th; Palm Beach, Florida, USA, October 22nd.

Each pilgrimage is supported by a ‘Children’s Prayer Appeal’ where school children are invited to write prayers for their grandparents. These prayers are presented during the offertory of the pilgrimage Mass. The Pope’s Universal Prayer for Grandparents, written for the CGA by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008, is also promulgated by the CGA.

‘Grandparents’ Days in Schools’ are also very popular, where grandparents visit the schools and remind the children what it was like growing up in times past. The ‘Children’s Blessed Sacrament Adoration Prayer Card’ was compiled by the CGA for grandparents and grandchildren to pray together before the Blessed Sacrament. The association is also actively setting up CGA Branches at parish level to support grandparents.

Further details:
CGA (+353) 98-24877.
www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.com
Hundreds celebrate inaugural Grandparents' pilgrimage at Carfin Grotto, Scotland.

More than 300 pilgrims attended the inaugural Grandparents' Pilgrimage in Carfin Grotto in Scotland on Sunday, August 21st, 2011.

The Chief Celebrant, recently retired Bishop of Aberdeen, Bishop Peter Moran, spoke about the vocation of Grandparents and their value in society and the church. Bishop Moran said that Grandparents are like Eliakim in the first reading from Isaiah: “a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honour for his family.”

The founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association, Catherine Wiley, urged people to join the association. Speaking in the wake of the recent riots in England, Ms Wiley urged people to support the faith system. “When the Church is weakened, society is weakened. We have a duty to build up the Church. Grandparents have no agenda. They were never as important as they are today. The CGA is a unifying force for Grandparents with Pilgrimages in Ireland, England, Scotland, America, Germany, Australia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Cambodia. When we pray as Grandparents we can never lose. Faith can never be lost as long as we pray. We need to pray more than ever to ensure that moral values are kept at the centre of society.”

Among the Children’s Prayers for Grandparents brought to the altar during the Offertory were prayers from St Joseph’s Primary School, Queen’s Cross, Aberdeen. CGA President, Máire Printer, a native of Glasgow and sister of Bishop Moran, said she was delighted with the turn-out. “It was a wonderful day. We all really enjoyed the prayerful atmosphere. The music from the Motherwell Diocesan Choir and Mr John Pitcathley was simply divine!”

Mrs Printer paid tribute to the Carfin Grotto Parish Priest, Fr Francis McGachey, local organisers, Una and John Delaney, Cathy McCrossan and John Bain. She said that plans are underway to organise another Grandparents Pilgrimage for next year and to make the date permanent in the pilgrimage calendar.

Bishop Moran was joined by Deacon Jim Aitken and Fr. Benny MacHale from Ireland, who will be the homilist at the Grandparents Pilgrimage in Knock on September 11th, where upwards of 15,000 pilgrims are expected. Fr. McGachey acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Observation

Note how many European and South American soccer players make the Sign of the Cross as they step onto the football field! Perhaps Barcelona FC players have friends in high places!
Litany of Saints Joachim and Anne

Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, graciously hear us!
God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us!
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us!
God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us!
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us!

Holy Mary, spotless child of St Joachim and St Anne,
St Joachim, father of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Joachim, promised descendant of Abraham and David,
St Joachim, venerable patriarch,
St Joachim, holy spouse of St Anne,
St Joachim and St Anne, shining models of Christian spouses,
St Anne, royal lady,
St Anne, glory of the house of David,
St Anne, faithful and loving wife,
St Anne, venerable model of meekness and humility,
St Anne, brilliant example of holy obedience,
St Anne, sparkling mirror of patience and resignation,
St Anne, perfect type of devotion and piety,
St Anne, fruitful vine,
St Anne, giving wise instruction and careful training to your child,
St Anne, worthy mother of the Mother of God,
St Anne, tender mother of all virgins,
St Anne, mother lending aid to all Christian mothers,
St Anne, consoling mother of all widows,
St Anne, kind mother of us all,
St Anne, refuge of the suffering,
St Anne, guiding star of widows,
St Anne, harbour of safety in the storms of this life.

Through your virtues and merits,
Through your goodness and compassion,
Through all your gifts and prerogatives,
Through your high vocation,
Through your miraculous maternity,
Through Mary, your child full of grace,
Through the joys prepared for you on earth by Jesus and Mary,
Through the honour they now render you in heaven,
Through your exceedingly great rapture and bliss,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us, O Lord!

Christ, hear us!
Christ, graciously hear us!

Pray for us

and for our children.

We implore you,

St. Anne.

Concluding Prayer for Married Persons to St. Joachim and St. Anne

O models of pious and virtuous married persons, St. Joachim and St. Anne! Through the wondrous blessing with which God gladdened your heart when He chose you as the parents of the ever Blessed Virgin, the Mother of our Saviour, obtain for us, we beseech you, the grace to desire nothing but virtue and piety; that, in fidelity and love, we may share each others' joys and sorrows and, together with our children, lead such a life as to insure our entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven! Amen.

O Holy Joachim, spouse of St. Anne and father of the most Blessed Virgin, bring to your clients on earth help and salvation, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, through Christ. Our Lord.
THOSE LEFT STANDING
(IN personae Christi)

Dearest Ireland,
We, as Catholics, can be harsh, critical and demanding,
But having toured this incredibly beautiful land,
Do not judge 'Those Left Standing'.
Yes, 'tis true, the horrors are many,
And those guilty will be tried.
But do not be swayed by media vengeance
For there is another side.
'Those Left Standing' are the finest of men
Who continue day after day
To celebrate your Masses,
To baptise your babies,
To give you comfort in every way.
They get up each morning
And go about God's work
Regardless of spit or jeers.
They visit your sick and bury your dead;
They console and dry your tears.
'Those Left Standing' have told me:
"No matter what the media say,
I will not flee; I'll do God's work;
'Tis here, in Ireland, I'll stay!"

'In personae Christi'!
'Those Left Standing' continue to stand.
Here, in dearest Ireland,
Where Catholicism feeds your land.
Dearest Ireland,
Rise up when you meet 'Those Left Standing'.
Your finest men, 'tis true.
I beg you, dearest Ireland,
Rise up -
And say, 'Thank You!'

THE SERVANT AT THE SUPPER
(INspired By St. JOHN OF THE CROSS)
WRITTEN BY: ELEANOR GLENN
Yes, my journey is really necessary.
For every Tuesday morn
I bring the statue of Our Blessed Lady
To the Rosary Group in Ardowen Hall.
I wrap her so carefully,
Protecting her little hands and feet,
For I know she gives great blessings
To everyone we meet.
The Dome I wrap separately
To protect her from all harm
As we make our way together
To the Rosary Group in Ardowen Hall.
We pray for our Holy Father
On his journeys all over the world;
We pray for our dear departed,
Especially the disappeared.
We pray for the people of other faiths
In far off, distant lands,
And we ask the men of violence
To please lay down their arms.
When the Rosary is over,
We have a chat and a wee cup of tea;
We talk about the old times
And how things used to be.
We thank God for our families,
Grandchildren and great-grandchildren too,
But all too soon Tuesday morn is over;
We say goodbye and ‘God Bless You’.
This statue was very special
In our home long years ago;
Bought by my mother, God rest her,
For Eucharist Congress in 1932.
**Peggy's Grandparent Experience** - Peggy McLoughlin, Knock Branch, CGA.

Grandchildren - the best thing since sliced pan! They give joy, pleasure, happiness, and a reason to go on! The great thing is that the older generation has time to spend with them, which they didn't have with their own children due to work pressure and other commitments. The great love they have for their grandkids is insurmountable and I can almost say it is reciprocated by the children. Another big bonus is that, if you are tired at the end of the day, you can hand them back! In other words, you have all the pleasure without the pain! I think I can speak from experience as I am a granny of twelve and I love each one of them in a unique kind of way. They are all so different with their varied personalities, their moods, their tantrums and their laughter, which makes them all so loveable in their own little way. As well as keeping granny and grandad young, they keep them exercised and agile, which helps to keep the brain active and, so, wards off Alzheimer's disease!

Birthdays, too, are exciting times, both for the children and for the seniors. One can learn from them, watching them play games, climb trees, and even 'Ring-a-Roses' in their own inimitable little style. Their honesty, innocence and imagination are a joy to behold. God bless our little ones! While they grow up, we grow down. Meanwhile, enjoy them and try to stay forever young. May their parents, our children, live to enjoy their children's children, just as we have enjoyed their children - if you know what I mean!

One other thing - you don't need to go to the gym, as they'll keep you on your toes - another plus for the arthritic bones! The only downside, if any, is that they grow up too quickly, bless them, and we move on. To everyone lucky enough to have grandchildren, I say cherish every moment you have with them, as they are life's greatest gift and they do us proud all the time. They keep us young and give us a reason to go on. Another thing, they keep us from regular visits to the doctor's surgery because, while enjoying their antics, they distract us from dwelling on the inevitable pains and aches that come with old age. Even if, sometimes, they can be irritating our less than perfect movements, which our anatomy is capable of making at this stage in life, we can see an extension of ourselves in them and this gives us so much joy. Also, they pick-up on our old methods and skills of long ago, while we try to understand the modern technology which is part of life in the world today. Maybe we missed out on something of the yesteryears, but our lives, though simple, were more relaxed than the 'rat-race' and hurry of life today. Perhaps we can transmit this to our grandchildren, which wouldn't be a bad thing either!

I wish all the grandchildren and, indeed, children of the world every success and fulfillment, as they will be the citizens of tomorrow.

"Mol an óige agus tiofaidh siad!"

---

**Marjorie's Kitchen** - Marjorie Morrow - Phone: 096-22609

**Soda Bread Recipe**

Makes 1 large or 2 small loaves.

**Ingredients:**

- 574g (2 cups) 1.25 lbs plain flour
- 1 pint buttermilk or sour milk
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 level teaspoon baking powder
- 1 level teaspoon salt
- 1 level teaspoon treacle

**Method:**

1. Pre-heat oven (425ºF, 220ºC or gas 7) for 40 minutes.
2. Place dough in pot/oven; cover with heated lid. Place hot coals on top to give all round heat.
3. Pour in nearly all the milk and egg; gather in the flour and mix to a loose dough, adding more milk if necessary.
4. Knead lightly on a floured board or table and flatten out. Cut a cross on top.
5. Place dough in pot/oven; cover with heated lid. Place hot coals on top to give all round heat.

Alternatively, bake in a greased, round pyrex dish with lid; pre-heat oven (425ºF, 220ºC or gas 7) for 40 minutes.

To keep bread soft, wrap in a clean, damp tea-towel when it is taken out of the oven.

**Variations:**

Sultana Cake: Half-cup of sultanas are added to the dry ingredients.

Treacle Soda Bread: Make as above but use 2 tablespoons of black treacle (molasses) are heated with the milk and 1 tablespoon of sugar is added to the dry ingredients.

Brown Soda Bread: Make as above but use 1lb (4 cups) whole wheat flour. A little more milk is used to mix the dough.

Apple Cake: Place half the dough in pot/oven; add sliced, cooked apple and sweeten with sugar. Cover with remaining dough. Press edges together, cover and bake in the same way.
Grandad,

I've so many wonderful memories doing things with you. Of course there are plenty more to come. You have been a brilliant Grandad in every way, from bringing us on trips or just being down with us in Sliabh Cuillinn. They are stored in our memories like math sums. What I mean is they will always be in my mind. I'll write down some of my memories up in Beechcroft and in Cullenagh.

As far back as I can remember we've been going to Newgrange for that breath-taking experience of finding all those chocolate eggs. The whole place would be packed with cars that one Sunday. I remember we'd go back to Beechcroft with our pockets bursting with lovely treats.

I think we all remember our delightful stays with you and Grandmum. When Mum and Dad went away it was such fun. We'd always have banana/raspberry toasted sandwiches and the jam would come oozing out. Just thinking of it makes my mouth water. The time we spent watching TV, it was brilliant. I'd say half of our TV life was probably spent up there in Beechcroft. We'd wake up at around 8.30 or 9.00 a.m. and you and Grandmum would be at Mass. You always seemed to be on time for Mass, no matter what. Grandad, you are really and truly a very good timekeeper.

I have to recall going to Lullymore to see the fairies in their tiny houses up in the trees. I always wondered why in the world the fairies just wouldn't come out. I still remember going on the train-ride on Lullymore bog. It was quite a bumpy ride. Whenever we went to Lullymore it always seemed to be sunny. Well, whenever I am with you, you always light up the day anyway.

Whenever we go up to your house, we usually arrive late. But guess what? You still wait up to give us a warm welcome. Your hug is like a big bear hug. I remember being lifted off my feet into your big arms.

Love Laoise (age 12)

Grandad,

I have many fond memories of spending time with you and Granmum up in Beechcroft. It's true to say that I enjoyed every moment with you and I always feel extremely welcome. Two years ago, as I gradually recovered from my operation, I spent time relaxing on your reclining armchair for the whole season of Wimbledon. It's only now I realise how that chair represents you as a person. I'm sure that my recovery was so fast due to your pure kindness, allowing me to lie on your special chair.

Naturally, I can remember going on many trips with you when we all visited you. I had such great fun betting on sheep at Newgrange Farm, winning the bonnet competition and, of course, getting to eat the Easter eggs when we got back home. You made Easter a most enjoyable time and I always look forward to the different trips.

During Halloween you always had something organised for us. I thoroughly enjoyed the time when we went to a farm and there was a zombie man with a chain-saw running around. That was absolutely brilliant. You also had the utility room set up with apples hanging off the ceiling. Yours was always the highest.

I have learnt so many things from you, one of which is never to underestimate yourself. I remember Granmum and you had come down to stay with us. I had only a month to go to my piano exam. I had just started my last piece and it usually takes me six months at least to learn one. Your positive words persuaded me to continue and, in the end, I did very well in my exam.

Although you are so wise, you are so young at heart; you even remind me of a teenager. You are faster at texting than me, are always up-to-date on the concerts going on (Slane Castle getting special treatment), and even your style is pretty cool. Last year at Irish College you arrived with your aviator sunglasses. The hall whispered as I left. I knew I had the coolest Grandad as you were right in fashion. Yep, not only that, we even share the same taste. You introduced me to lemon meringue and we started to have hot chocolate before we went to bed in your house. It was only last month when I realised even our taste for TV shows is very similar - good old America's Got Talent.

Going to the Special Olympics was the best memory ever with you - the fireworks, the green flags; we waved and we listened to the famous words of Nelson Mandela.

It's great that you're here today to read these memories and you should realise what an impact you have had on my life for sixteen years. You are not only my best Grandad, but also a very cool friend.

I love you lots.

From your favourite grandchild,

Daniele (age 16)
Branches of the CGA have been set up in parishes over the past year.

Branches are now active in Westport, Castlebar, Newport, Knock, Tuam, Dunmore, Athenry, Finney, Williamstown, Roscommon, Kingscourt, Mullahoran (Cavan), Blackpool, Castleconnell, Causeway/Ballyduff, Trim-Boardsmill and Navan.

CGA President, Máire Printer, and founder, Catherine Wiley, have also spoken at workshops, novenas and conferences in Dublin, Carlow, Castlebar, Westport and Bristol.

Meetings have also taken place with various Bishops, including Bishop Bill Murphy (Kerry), Bishop John Kirby (Clonfert), Bishop John Buckley (Cork), Bishop Christy Jones (Sligo), Mgr. Brendan Byrne (Kildare and Leighlin), and Archbishop Michael Neary (Tuam) with plans underway to meet more Bishops later this year.

Thank You!

Thanks to Breda Laffey and her Prayer Group members in Finney, Co. Galway, for keeping the work of the CGA before the Lord.

We are delighted that many prayer groups include us in their prayers.

We would be delighted to meet prayer group members and share the story of the CGA.

Contact us on: (+353) 098-24877.

Thanks to Paul O’Brien for his support of the CGA through a sponsored walk - keep up the good work, Paul! Merci!

Grandparents are great.
They never debate.
They give you a treat.
And it's mostly a sweet.
My grandparents are no exception.
They do not feed me lies and deception.
And they always have me over for tea.
My grandparents are very religious,
And not at all suspicious.
They're loving and caring.
It's rating that they are strict.

Written for Grandparents Páraic and Alice Stephens, Roscommon.

A new series of Christian books for children has been written by Louisiana resident, Arlene Hebert, a registered nurse turned children's author. The books target seven to ten-year-old children; younger children delight in the stories as well. Three books are available for purchase in the AngelTale Book Store at www.angeltaledventures.com. The fourth book is due out in September.

The story-line is simple: God, a main character in the stories, is not happy with many things in His beloved world and plans to change the world through children.

Before God creates a set of twins - gifted with the ability to see, talk and play with their guardian angels (GAs) - He visits Guardian Angel School to choose two angels for this special assignment. Through the adventures, the twins learn many life lessons with the help of their GAs. These lessons are to be passed on to other children.

The ‘Let’s Talk about’ section at the end of each book presents simple questions, ideas and activities. Beginning with book two, children are taken on treasure hunts within the Bible; a Bible Study Guide is included in its section.

Book one of the series is a FUNDRAISER for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee - forever and ever! To date, over $36,400 has benefitted this much needed hospital.

Book four - GAs on Assignment - a special book, takes place in the mother's womb. Actual growth and development facts of babies are woven into a wonderful story for children. It has been endorsed by pro-life advocate, Abby Johnson; children’s illustrator and author, Frank Remikiewicz; educator, Shirley Comeaux, Ph.D; and medical physicians.

Remember, we are a registered charity.
All donations are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged.

Donations over €250 are tax deductable.

Help us to help Grandparents to pass on the faith and keep prayer at the heart of family life.
**UPCOMING EVENTS ...**

**For Grandparents and Grandchildren**

Plans are being finalised for Faith and Fun Mini-Breaks in the Knock House Hotel - bringing faith alive through art, music and story-telling - plus excursions, sports and fun games with evening entertainment for grandparents.

Details to be confirmed ...

---

**A SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER & HEALING FOR EVERYBODY**

with Eddie Stones in Emmanuel House, Clonfert, Co. Galway, from 12.00 noon to 4.00 p.m. on Saturday, September 17th.

**NO CHARGE.**

Bring a packed lunch.

Further details: 098-24877/087-2058016.

---

**Thanks ...**

to Fr. Benny McHale for his Grandparents' Workshops throughout the year and for being our homilist at the National Grandparents' Pilgrimage in Knock on 11th September 2011.

---

**WANTED! YOUR STORY FOR A NEW BOOK!**

How many of you have made a bargain with God? "If You ... I promise I'll never ... again!" Everyone has done a deal, or wanted to do a deal, with God at some stage in their life!

Tell us about it!

The CGA is researching stories for inclusion in a new book about such faith experiences.

Write it up and send it on!

We’re waiting in joyful hope!

---

**FOR SALE:**

Spread the Good News of the CGA.

Our logo is now available on T-shirts, sweat shirts, hoodies, bumper stickers, notelets, Christmas Cards, etc.

Contact us on 098-24877.

---

**DON’T FORGET TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!**

www.catholicgrandparentsassocation.com

---

**CONGRATULATIONS**

to Noreen Daly, our esteemed Administrator, on the birth of baby, Maisy! Noreen, her husband, Conor, and ‘older’ sister, Jennifer, are all delighted with their new bundle of joy! So are we! Comhghairdeas!

---

**THANKS ...**

to the Order of Malta volunteers in Castlebar for arranging a collection for the CGA at Dunnes Stores in Castlebar.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh to Tom Jennings, Martin Monaghan and friends from the Order of Malta and to Pádraig Fell, Manager, Dunnes’ Stores, Castlebar.

Sincere thanks to all concerned.

---

**The CGA is a registered charity, No. 19038.**

Directors: Catherine Wiley, Marie Hogan, Mâtre Printer & David Quinn.

Company Secretary: Kathy Sinnott.

We are grateful to our Directors for their support & guidance. We also wish to acknowledge the support and guidance of Monsignor Joe Quinn, Rev. Richard Gibbons, Rev. Philip Grystone, Adrian Ing, Shay Boylan, Stewart Wiley and our Spiritual Director, Rev. Fintan Monaghan.
A member of the Westport CGA branch informed us of a beautiful liturgy she attended in Derry:

"My daughter-in-law was four months pregnant when she discovered there was no movement from her unborn child. Eventually the priest was called and carried out baptism of intent. A few days later we buried my little grandson, Gabriel. The burial took place after a most meaningful service. Both families were there. The ceremony added a whole new dimension to the sacredness of the ‘unborn’ and just how precious they are to all of us. Although we were all heartbroken, the service was such a comfort to all of us."

Susan Brown (Dana's mother), Derry.


We regret to record the death of our member, Ann Boylan, on 2nd September 2010, loving wife of Shay, mother of Colin, grandmother of Ciara and Megan and mother-in-law of Melanie. Loved always by her family and friends.

Nancy Brady, Attyreece, Westport, Co. Mayo.

At the funeral Mass, homily tributes were paid to Nancy for the exemplary Christian life she had lived. She was caring of others, her husband, immediate and extended family, her neighbours and the wider community. Her faith gave real meaning to her life and she generously shared it with so many others. In truth, she was the good and faithful servant who lived the Gospel message to the full in her daily life.

Sympathy is extended to Nancy's sons, daughters, brothers and family.

Mick Grimes, Tuam, Galway.

Mum never failed to do her best, Her heart was true and tender, She worked and toiled for those she loved, And left them to remember.

We sat beside your bedside, Our hearts were crushed and sore; We did our duty to the end, Till we could do no more.

In tears we watched you sinking, We watched you fade away; And though our hearts were breaking, We knew you could not stay.

You left behind some aching hearts, That loved you most sincerely; We never shall and never will, Forget you mother dear.

John Nellie, Causeway, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Please advise us when a member dies.

Prayers are offered for all our members ...

Annie Heraty, Westport, Co. Mayo.

Sue Sheard, Galway.

Sheila Warde, Westport, Co. Mayo.

Sheila was an active member of the Westport branch. At her funeral Mass one of her children put it succinctly with the words: "She was not only a mother to us, but our best friend, and always made time to listen to us." Sheila was a very religious woman and her faith was very important to her. She attended Mass every day in St. Mary's Church, Westport, and was a Minister of the Eucharist for several years. At the beginning of Mass, symbols of Sheila's life and strong faith were brought to the altar, the most poignant being her well-worn prayer book. The cover for her prayer book had been made by her brother, Monsignor Alan, when he was studying for the Priesthood and, for over 50 years Sheila carried this prayer book everywhere she went.

Sympathy is extended to her family, some of whom read the lessons and prayers of the faithful and brought the offertory gifts to the altar.
DEAR JOAN …

Though now you've passed from this earth,
I write these few lines to remember the woman I've always known.
When we were young, we loved to spend the day with you.
Bacon and cabbage was so magical with your touch.
And, if we were really lucky, we'd get sausages for tea.

You'd encourage mischief-making,
Like the time you told me to 'charge' the boys for the work I'd done;
Oh, how you must have laughed!
As we grew up, we started painting nails together,
And you let us put your make-up on.

When we started driving, you'd start the rosary,
But always gave us 'money for sweets' when you arrived safely.
I'm sorry to say, I haven't found a husband.
And, now you're gone, who's going to call me
With potentials in the 'Irelands Own'?

There are a lot of fond memories of you, Joan,
But what I liked best was your resilience.
And, over the years, you've certainly proved to have plenty of it.
Every time you fell from your horse,
You got up, dusted yourself off, and went again.

I hope, as I go through life,
I can have the same courage and commitment that you had.
You loved your card games, going places, and talking to people.
The house will, no doubt, be a lot quieter without you.
We're taking good care of Paddy.
I'm talking to God every day (you'd be proud!)

Love and miss you,
Shauna.

Written by Shauna Browne, living in Seoul, South Korea, and who was unable to attend the funeral of her grandmother, Joan, who died on 17th March 2010. Joan and Patrick Kennedy, Co. Offaly, were proud members of the CGA.
NAN by David Barry

I pause to reflect
In these saddest of times
On the life of a woman
Truly larger than life
An inspiration to all
The young and the old
A woman of courage
Both steadfast and bold
A lover of life
It needn't be said
Biggest struggle with Nan
Was to put her to bed
She loved an ol' chat
A laugh loud and hearty
Who'd ever deny
She was the queen of the party?
A formidable force
In all of our lives
Her effect on us all
Few words could describe
Strength and determination
Come quickly to mind
But more so a loving
And generous side
For the love that she held
For each and every one
Was plain to be seen
And equalled by none
Accepting us all
Without hesitation
Devoted and kind
To each generation
Now the huge sense of loss
Is overwhelming and painful
At losing this woman
With the heart of an angel
But though she must leave us
To answer her call
I truly believe
She lives on in us all
As we say 'Slán Abhaile'
We fight back the tears
And listen for her voice
That still rings in our ears
With her greatest advice
Enjoy life while ye can
We can now say goodbye
And we'll always love you, Nan.

Written in honour of his grandmother, Kitty Murphy, Cobh, Co. Cork, who died on 20th November 2009.
# CGA Membership Form

**We earnestly request your donations, bequests and contributions to help us continue the work of passing on the Faith.**

The legacy of the Catholic Grandparents Association is eternity - leaving a footprint from this life to the next.

---

## Member Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name(s):</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phone:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parish:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Amount:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

## Standing Order

Annual membership will be deducted from your account on renewal dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To:</strong> The Manager of your Bank/Building Society.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank/Building Society Name:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of Account Holder(s):</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signature:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Please state amount to be debited in words:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start Date:</strong></td>
<td><strong>and annually thereafter.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

## Annual Family Membership

Annual family membership: €20/£20/$30. Additional contributions are welcome.

Payment method (please tick):

- [ ] Cash
- [ ] Cheque
- [ ] Postal Order

Payments by cheque/postal order payable to:

**Catholic Grandparents Association.**

---

**Beneficiary Name:** Catholic Grandparents Association.

**Bank Sort Code:** 90:00:17

**Account Number:** 37458242

---

**Please post to:**

Catholic Grandparents Association,
The Fairgreen,
Westport,
Co. Mayo,
Ireland.

**Telephone:** (+353) 098 24877

info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com
www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.com

---

We earnestly request your donations, bequests and contributions to help us continue the work of passing on the Faith.

The legacy of the Catholic Grandparents Association is eternity - leaving a footprint from this life to the next.
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,
guardians of noble domestic ideals,
living treasuries 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!

Composed by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, in 2008,
at the request of the Catholic Grandparents Association