

*Rejoice  
He is Risen!*



*Easter 2015*

CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION  
**GRANDPARENTS NEWS**

*We bring you love and greetings from Grandparents all over the World*

*Helping Grandparents to pass on the faith & to keep prayer at the heart of family life*

# A Message from the Founder

Dear Members, Grandparents and Friends

As we approach the great feast of Easter it is good to be able to reflect on the developments of the CGA over the past three months. Since January we have developed the work following the Conference for Associations in Rome in connection with the Relatio, we have met with a number of Diocesan Bishops in England, Scotland and the US and continued to build the solid foundations we need to ensure the continuity of our work. We have spoken at a number of key events including the huge Divine Mercy Conference in New York. Our Pilgrimage Plans are well advanced for this year and we are looking to welcome many, many thousands to the spiritual home of the CGA in Knock, Ireland.

Our work in schools has similarly grown and we have continued to work to develop what Pope Francis calls, 'intergenerational dialogue'.

However, the mission of the CGA continues and we are ever conscious and grateful for the 'grass roots' support from the many members and groups working in so many countries. I often say that 'grandparenting' is a job you can never retire from.

Over the coming days of the Easter Season, we thank God for the many graces he has bestowed on each and every one of us.

Have a truly happy and holy Easter with your families.

*May St Joachim and St Anne bless you, your children and your Grandchildren.*

*There is a candle lighting for your intentions at the Shrines of our Lady of Walsingham, and Knock in Ireland*



*Catherine Wiley*

**Catherine Wiley**

Grandmother and founder  
of the Catholic Grandparents Association

## What has happened to filial piety?

Pope Francis' words at the General Audience of March 4th, really strike a chord in the hearts of millions of faithful and people of good will.

Better nutrition and access to advance health care has increased the ordinary life span of countless citizens to levels never imagined before. In this sense, we are thankful for such blessings, while we also do all we can, to ensure that such benefits are made available to the entire human family.

In the past things were different as the birth rate of children per family was often much higher, and longevity of life was much lower. Not living beyond their 70s, the elderly were generally physically and mentally capable, and largely fending for themselves, they were still cared for by at least one younger member of the family.

Today it is not so for many, and if we consider the professional assistance that advanced age requires, as well as the increasing demands of life and work for younger generations, we see how many societies have responded to the needs of the elderly via the provision of institutional centers and elderly homes, where teams of paid professionals tend to the physical, emotional and health requirements of the elderly. Many health care workers, clearly and wonderfully give their all to look after our elderly.

But our Holy Father is right. Speaking as a prophet, he is warning and denouncing the growing sin of the abandonment of the elderly. The sin where fathers, mothers, uncles and aunts, for example, are left largely, or entirely, to the care of professionals, while the young busy themselves, not just with work, but with leisure too, and at the expense of caring for their elderly. How many are alone! What has happened to filial piety? To that virtue ensuing from the practice of the 4th commandment, where the dictate "honor your father and mother" has not just taken a low place in our lives, but even been totally ignored? What a tragedy!

The elderly are entitled to our love. They constitute our very roots and are a source of enrichment to each of us, as to society. Their advanced age is not a burden, for our response to their needs gives us true happiness, as in love we are further enriched by their wisdom. Like no else, the elderly pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience.

May our Holy Father's words enlighten us to rise to our solemn call to honor our elderly.

Catherine Wiley - President Catholic Grandparents Association



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# Grandparents Day

## *Carramore School, County Mayo 13th February*

On the second occasion of the grandparents of children attending a local School the grandparents met to engage with the children and talk about their own school experiences. Mr Michael Cronnolly, a local flute maker of some renown, who is also a grandparent was among those paying a visit. He spoke to the children of learning to play the flute at the age of 20 yrs on his own initiative without any help or lessons as if provided today.

Michael explains in detail how a flute is made from the very simplest to that of an orchestral class instrument. After the talk the children asked many questions of Michael and were invited to play the beginner instruments which some of the children were able to do with great pride. All thanked Michael for a most interesting talk and he had a great surprise for the children as he produced a special flute he made in the Mayo colours and donated four starter flutes and two violins to the School.



Any flute enquiries can be made to [www.mandeflute.uk](http://www.mandeflute.uk)

Following Michael's presentation the children went on to ask a number of questions of Michael on agricultural and family life to other grandparents which proved to be most interesting and enlightening to all present. Many thanks to the teachers, grandparents and children for an enjoyable session.

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## CGA Welcomes new Rector for Walsingham.

25th March 2015

At a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes of East Anglia, Msgr. John Armitage was installed as the Rector of the National Shrine to Our Lady at Walsingham.

At the time of his appointment, Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: "I am delighted to learn that Mgr. John Armitage is to take up this position. His deep devotion to Our Blessed Lady, his remarkable pastoral drive and enthusiasm, make his appointment a moment of great promise not only for the shrine but also for the Church in this country and for our mission. I thank most warmly Bishop Alan Williams of Brentwood Diocese, for his generosity of spirit in agreeing to this appointment. Mgr. Armitage has long played a vital part in the life of Brentwood Diocese and his loss will be keenly felt by many."



During the Mass, Bishop Alan Hopes welcomed Mgr John and reaffirmed that Walsingham was the 'home of the (English) National Catholic Grandparents Association Pilgrimage'. We are currently working closely with Mgr. John regarding this year's Pilgrimage, which will be on the feast of St Anne and St Joachim, 26th July 2015. During this Pilgrimage we will be re-staging the hugely popular 'Walsingham Story', which explains why this site is such an important part of both our faith journey and our Catholic heritage.





## Ray Chuck makes a presentation to Archbishop Eamon Martin

Coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh, after he celebrated Mass in the Church of All Saints, Killasser in May, 2014. L to R: Marty Noone who welcomed the Archbishop on behalf of the people, Assumpta Loftus, Chariman of the Pastoral Council, Ray Chuck, Archbishop Martin, Bishop Brendan Kelly and fr John Durkan, PP.

The beautiful presentation piece was very cleverly designed and crafted by Ray Chuck. The unique figure is that of a “bishop” standing on a chess board and holding a bishop’s crozier, bearing the inscription from St Matthew: “And you shall find rest”. We wish Archbishop Eamon many restful times in the busy schedule of life as bishop.

## Grandparents & Family Day organised by Catherine and Ray Chuck in Kilasser National School, Co. Mayo

Grandparents & Family Day in Kilasser School took place on Friday 20th March at 1pm. There were many Grandparents and Family members attending. The event was also attended by Fr. John Durkan. The children sang hymns, followed by Bible reading and prayers.

The children had also drawn pictures of their Grandparents and families which were presented on the day.

Ray spoke at the end and thanked everyone for attending on behalf of the Catholic Grandparents Association. Everyone there left with a feeling of great hope for the future.



## Why does Easter move about?

We often hear that Easter is 'early' or late' in a particular year but why exactly is this.

We know from Scripture that Jesus died on a Friday—just before the feast of the Passover in the Jewish calendar. This is fixed by the Pascal full moon.

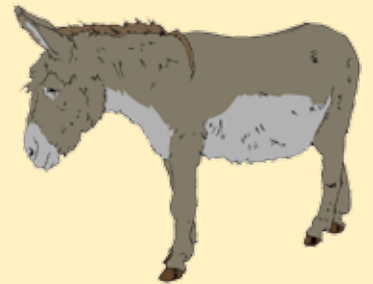
The Council of Nicea (A.D. 325) set the date of Easter as the Sunday following the paschal full moon, which is the full moon that falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox.— that day when both day and night are of equal length. One of these occurs in Spring (the vernal equinox) and the other in the Autumn.

We know that Easter must always occur on a Sunday, because Sunday was the day of Christ's Resurrection. But why the paschal full moon? Because that was the date of Passover in the Jewish calendar, and the Last Supper (Holy Thursday) occurred on the Passover. Therefore, Easter was the Sunday after Passover. And if you were also wondering, the Forty Days of lent also recall the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness before he commenced His ministry.

### THE EASTER DONKEY by Margaret Ingall

I did not know that morning  
When I bore Him into town,  
How soon the loud hosannas  
Would be changed to thorny crown.  
I did not know that later  
When I followed up the hill,  
They'd nail Him upon a cross  
With suffering greater still.

And when I could not bear to watch  
This strange, this cruel attack,  
I turned and felt His shadow fall  
Like balm upon my back.  
And so it is that even now  
All donkeys bear the sign:  
A cross that is a testament  
To show God's love divine.



## The things we do for the Lord

Despite biting winds and pouring rain, the Annual Church Gate Collection in Trim, a beautiful town about 30 miles north west of Dublin, went ahead as planned. The collection was attended by our Founder, Catherine Wiley, who was visiting the area. She stopped and spoke with the many people attending the masses at St Patricks and other nearby parishes. The collection, which was organised by Martin Daly, one of our leaders in the area, raised over €600 which will aid and support the growth of the CGA in that area. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who work so tirelessly to support the work and mission of the CGA across the world.



In Ireland, all such collections are organised with the permission of the local Garda (Police) and we thank martin and his team for obtaining all the relevant permits and permissions and for producing some wonderful promotional materials which undoubtedly help to grow the collection.



Please give generously the  
smallest amount counts



# Navan - All Ireland Gathering.

Delegates from all across Ireland gathered in Navan, County Meath, Ireland, for the all Ireland Gathering on Sunday 22nd February 2015. About 40 people had made the journey to hear the latest developments in the CGA and also to share with each other the progress made in so many areas across Ireland. The meeting started, as all our meetings do, with the Universal Prayer for Grandparents written for the Association by Pope Benedict XVI.



During the meeting, Founder Catherine Wiley, spoke of the rapid growth of the CGA and highlighted a number of key events during the past year. This included the great Pilgrimage of Grandparents and the Elderly in Rome last October, where both she and her grandson Tom, gave moving testimony to our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Outlining the development of the CGA in Ireland, Catherine spoke of the need to 'multiply our hands' and that we were working hard to develop regional and diocesan leaders in each of the four Provinces in Ireland. A number of people showed both their commitment to the CGA and their passion to keep our mission alive and pledged to help us. We will be working with them over the coming weeks and months.

In addition, Catherine outlined the need to be able to sustain and progress the work of the CGA and until now, the main CGA benefactors have been her husband and herself. She explained that in order to ensure both longevity and sustainability of the association, that all groups should take steps to ensure that they work towards the aim of fundraising. She added that everyone should be assured that all moneys will go to the direct support of the Mission and Purpose of the CGA.

Catherine further spoke of the forthcoming year which will be filled with many pilgrimages and particularly the World meeting of Families where the CGA will be running a series of workshops.

The meeting concluded with the Prayer written especially for the World Meeting of Families 2015, Philadelphia, US.

## **Carlow Group Ireland - Introducing the Rosary**

Betty Murphy from the Carlow Group in Ireland spent the weeks of lent introducing school children to the Rosary Prayer. Working with two local primary schools, Betty explained the Joyful Mysteries and presented all children (and their teachers!) with a laminated prayer card explaining the Rosary along with a Miraculous Medal. Everyone also received an Easter Egg.

These visits have proved an important way of introducing children to prayer, particularly if they do not receive this at home. Following the success of this Betty has been asked to extend the talks to cover the remaining Mysteries of the Rosary.

For more information or details on this article or how you can help in this way please contact [info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)



Photo from  
<http://childrensrosary.blogspot.co.uk>



## ***Association for Catholic Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Ministry England & Wales***

**MARRIAGE CARE** – caring for couples in the good and the tough times! As a Catholic organisation, Marriage Care is pleased to be a friend of Caritas and to be a partner with those who work in their parishes and dioceses to support and encourage the valuing and understanding of family life as an essential expression of our Catholic vocation to love. The Catholic understanding of the person as loved by God, and as called to love, relationship and deeper community lies at the heart of why Marriage Care exists.



We offer relationship support not just to those who are in a happy place but also to those who are struggling in their relationships. The experience and expertise gained by our trained volunteers adds value to both services. As Cardinal Nichols said in his opening address to our national conference in September 14 'the expertise that has been established within the volunteer workforce which supports Marriage Care is considerable and represents an extensive resource for the work of marriage preparation and the care of family relationships.'

We are pleased to continue to be a resource for the Church as we work alongside clergy and parishes to offer good marriage preparation to couples at this important transition for them. It is a time of real opportunity to help couples understand the uniqueness of their relationship and to equip them with the skills that are essential to a strong and fulfilling marriage. But we are also there to walk alongside those who are struggling. We offer our service to all regardless of the ability to pay. Time and time again our relationship counsellors witness the miracle of growth that can emerge from incredible pain – as the most fractured of relationship hanging by a single thread is rewoven within the safety net of skilled support, warmth, understanding and acceptance. Please do remember in your prayers those who volunteer their time and gifts in this way. If you would like to offer your gifts through volunteering with Marriage Care, please go to [www.marriagecare.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk/volunteer) where you will find a variety of opportunities.

Mark Molden Chief Executive, Marriage Care

### **Hear Our Voices**

Family, Theology and the Synod, Saturday 13th June 2015 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

A day exploring Theology, Stories about Families and Shared Reflection as part of the Church's preparation for the Synod.

Alongside opportunities for round table discussion the day will include a panel, chaired by Fr Eddie Clare, (Director of the Maryvale Institute) our Key Speakers, Professor Thomas Knieps - Port Le Roi INTAMS Chair for the Study of Marriage & Spirituality, University of Leuven and Dr Patricia Kieran, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick as well as Elizabeth Davies (Marriage & Family Life Secretary Bishops Conference) and David McLoughlin (Senior Lecturer Theology, Newman University).

£10 (includes Parking, Refreshments and Lunch).

For bookings: Contact Lee Lawrence [L.Lawrence@staff.newman.ac.uk](mailto:L.Lawrence@staff.newman.ac.uk)

**WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS JOIN TODAY**

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# Topics for your Group meetings, supplied by Celine La Torre, USA

## **How can we share the faith in this rapidly changing world?**

So many of our families are fragmented and damaged, like a ship without rudder not knowing what direction to follow. The grandparent can act as a rudder for their grandchild. With simple acts such as saying Grace, teaching them about the lives of the Saints, telling them why their name is special and that God loves them, the grandparent can steer their grandchild toward the loving arms of God. They are truly special because God loves them.

## **What made the birth of Jesus so special?**

Surely it was the love Joseph and Mary felt for each other; this love overflowed onto this tiny King of Mercy. This mercy flowed from Jesus back to his parents. This mercy is then what flows through us as parents to our children. This mercy inspires us to give ourselves for our children, as Joseph and Mary did for Jesus. This mercy inspires us to emulate the Holy Family.

The family is the only place where the Kingdom of God can be born over and over again. As love grows and develops within a family, it flows beyond that family to the World. Our home is the Domestic Church. As love God's flows through our home, it will inevitably influence those around us, our local Church, as God's love cannot be contained.

Children may not always listen to what we say, but surely they will imitate us, like the little boy who tries on his daddy's shoes, or the little girl who puts on her mom's make-up. We must give them good things to imitate. "The tendency of the Spirit is towards life and peace." We need to help our children and grandchildren Choose Life, by choosing God's Way; a way of holiness and grace, a way of service and generosity. We must find ways to build a home not just a house; you can live in both, but you will only find love in a home. Every member of the family is important. The parent teaches, the young learn and the grandparent understands. Each is a vocation.

**What can grandparents teach their grandchildren:** the patience to listen, the courage to speak, the discipline to follow and the wisdom to lead. You can call it a road map to heaven. As we grow older and move on with our lives, we can suffer the loss of a friend or friend's. In the same way, when we separate ourselves with the Communion of Saints and the Holy Angels, we lose these friends as well. The more this generation separates itself from our past, the more we deplete ourselves of this rich support. As grandparents, we can teach our grandchildren about these marvelous friends of from our past that can support us into our future. I can remember as a child, walking into the front door of my home. As soon as I walked in, I saw a picture of the Christ Child. It was as if he could look back at you. On the walls were other pictures of Saints and the Crucifix as well as a bookcase with stories of the Saints—these images helped form me and my memories and my connection to my Catholic faith.

My memories of the Sacraments formed me as well. My mother was seriously ill, when the pastor of our church came to our home to anoint her. I was only 9 years old. The pastor said, "this sacrament will either make your mother well or take her home to heaven." My mother lived to be 92 years old. I was blest to be able to take for the last 10 years of her life. Be assured, whenever she became ill I asked for her to be anointed. One quiet January morning, the dear Lord came to take her home to heaven.

## **Can we share our faith in this world that has grown cold toward the love of God?**

I say yes! We can do this in simple ways such as wearing the crucifix around our neck, by acknowledging who we are as Catholics and confessing what we believe. We teach our grandchildren and others when we kiss the crucifix, like Mary kissing the feet of Jesus. Some of the most precious gifts that I have received from my grandchildren have a cross on them or an angel. They know who I am because I have shared this with them. Once I promised Jesus to wear His cross always, because he has always been there to carry mine.

Don't be discouraged if your children reject your advice; years later they will offer it to their own children. I believe in the sun even when it isn't shining, I believe in love even when I am alone.

I Believe in God even when he is silent." Jewish refugee



## 10th Annual Divine Mercy Conference a Great Success for The CGA

On March 21st the 10th Annual Divine Mercy Conference took place at Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx, New York. The Catholic Grandparents Association was honoured to be a guest speaker.



Sponsored by  
the Marian Fathers of the  
Immaculate  
Conception (MIC) and  
Franciscan  
Friars of the Renewal (CFR)

Catherine Wiley the founder had the opportunity to be a featured speaker along with:  
Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers  
Msgr. James Lisante, pastor, author, television commentator  
Fr. Frank Pavone, MEV, national director for Priests for Life  
Fr. Glen Sudano, CFR, one of the founding members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal  
Dr. Bryan Thatcher, director of Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy  
Archbishop Allen Vigneron, Archdiocese of Detroit

Catherine Wiley, founder of Catholic Grandparents Association. Catherine Wiley said "we were greatly encouraged by the tremendous response to the work of the CGA". Many Grandparents spoke with Catherine and other representatives about starting chapters and branches in their parishes.

A wonderful conclusion to the Divine Mercy Conference was that Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron celebrated Mass.

**Pictured:**  
Catherine being interviewed for EWTN TV  
by Father Frank Pavone, Priests for Life.



**Pictured Above:**  
from left,  
Msgnr Jim Lisante,  
Catherine Wiley, James  
Barr and Stewart Wiley at  
The 10th Annual  
Divine Mercy Conference.

## **Guidelines of The CGA presented to Archbishop Allen Vigneron**

Catherine Wiley presented the Guidelines of The Catholic Grandparents Association to Archbishop Allen Vigneron, Detroit USA at The 10th Annual Divine Mercy Conference, Cardinal Spellman High School One Cardinal Spellman Place Bronx, New York 10466 United States





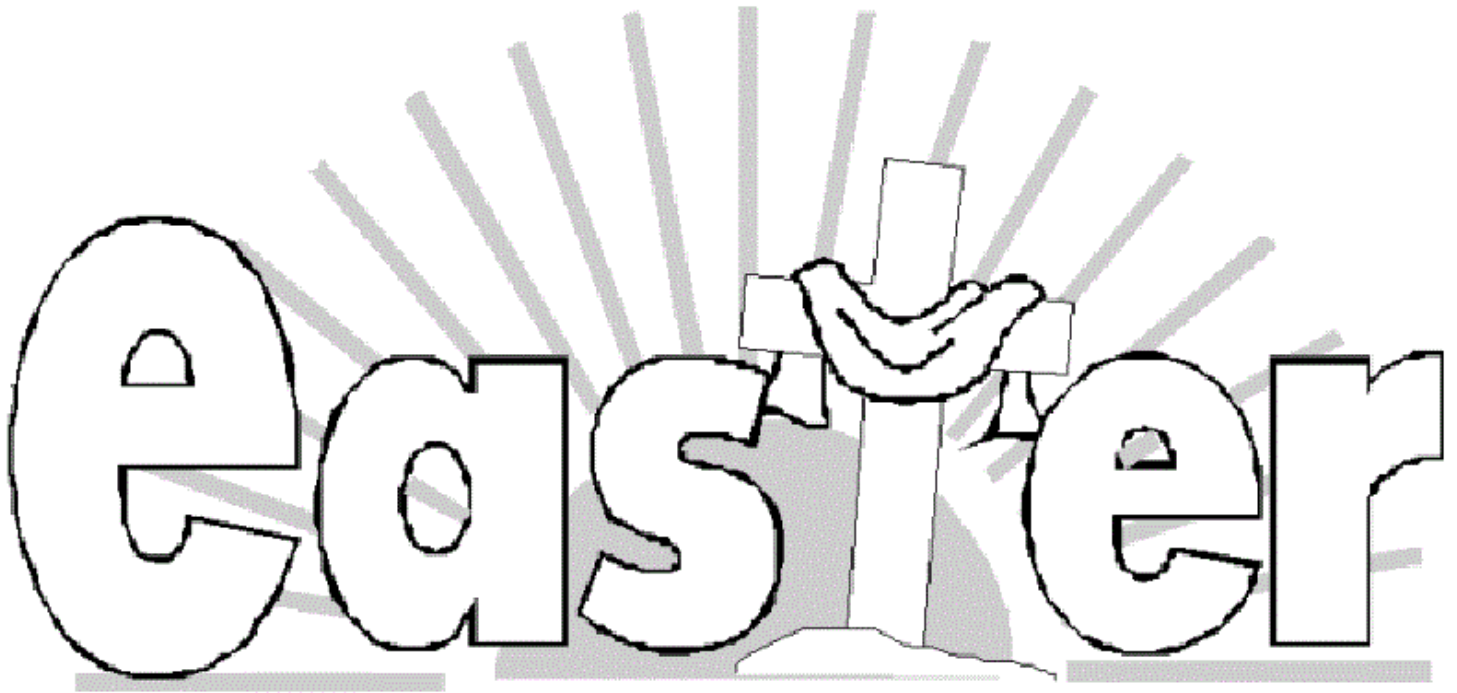
# Easter Wordsearch

c m g d a w x m r j d d a u r  
 i h o r a d m c v e l f e l f  
 x n o q a f h e p s s b a x t  
 v m r c g n f i o u z x u b s  
 o k s a o w d o j s o x a u q  
 s u j p b l b p d c c j v n l  
 m b a e r b a o a i s h f n l  
 o a h n l i i t n r l a a y d  
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 i k d a a s y g d s e n v b x  
 k e u i w u o b g s a t t y l  
 e t r t r n q b e r o c t s o  
 g y h h s d p y w a i q c b v  
 g m f o d a r d b l n w b i e  
 s q o f n y i r t l e n t k u

sunday  
 faith  
 jesus  
 chocolates  
 rabbit  
 love  
 lent  
 bunny  
 eggs  
 spring  
 grandparents  
 jellybean  
 bonnet  
 daffodils  
 basket



# Colouring



## ***The Jelly Bean Prayer***

*A lovely Gift & a great way  
to explain Jesus' death, burial  
and resurrection to your  
Grandchildren*

**To make the jelly bean jars you need:**

a jar  
jelly beans  
Jelly Bean Prayer cards  
(print ours to the right)  
ribbon

### **Directions:**

Fill the jar with jelly beans. Attach the poem using the ribbon. This makes a great little gift for your Grandchildren on Easter. Plus, it is a great illustration of our risen Savior!



**Red** is for the blood He gave.  
**Green** is for the grass He made.  
**Yellow** is for the sun so bright.  
**Orange** is for the edge of night.  
**Black** is for the sins we made.  
**White** is for the grace He gave.  
**Purple** is for His hour of sorrow.  
**Pink** is for a new tomorrow.  
And handful of jelly beans,  
Colorful and sweet,  
Is a prayer, a promise,  
A loved one's treat!  
**Happy Resurrection Sunday!**



# Grandparents – share your wisdom!

There is a saying that the first casualty in any conflict is truth. The debate which is ensuing following the Irish Governments announcement to hold a referendum on the introduction of 'same-sex marriage' in Ireland is no exception.

Throughout history, marriage has been established as the union between a man and a woman, for life, to the exclusion of others. Some may argue that the introduction of other relationships into this institution is simply a timely progression and a recognition of the reality of other forms of relationships. The Catholic Church has continued, wherever this legislation has been proposed, to engage in a reasoned debate, based on both natural law and Divine Law. Pope Francis, speaking at the beginning of the Extraordinary Synod (October 2014) reminded us that '...all should listen with humility and welcome, with an open heart, to what others say'.

This debate is not a matter of simply a 'word'. The definition of Marriage goes much deeper than that. Marriage has, what the Church defines as unitive and procreative properties. In other words, it not only joins two together but opens that relationship to the possibility of new life, children. Marriage is so much more than the wedding ceremony that seems to be the main focus for many couples. It is a sacrament in which the ministers are the couple themselves. Speaking recently, Archbishop Dairmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin said, 'An ethic of equality does not require uniformity. There can be an ethic of equality which is an ethic of recognising and respecting difference ... I am not saying that gay or lesbian people are unloving or that their love is somehow deficient compared to others, I am talking about the uniqueness in the male-female relationship'.

One of the recent campaigns supporting a 'yes' vote, has targeted young people to ask their 'granny' for advice. All of us, no matter what age we are or from what background, need to ensure that we are fully prepared for this important decision and not be simply swayed by the emotional aspects of the debate, without deeply considering the ramifications of our decision. Whichever way, our conversations need to be carried out in that spirit of truly trying to understand other viewpoints in a rational and respectful way.

Despite what many will believe to the contrary, the Church continues to maintain that we are all, irrespective of the many things which will define us as a person, created by an ever loving God in his image. The Christian message is much about seeing Christ in all we meet.

So, when someone asks for your opinion or how you will vote in the referendum make sure that you are able to answer honestly and in an informed way. More information can be found in the pamphlet 'Why Marriage Matters', by contacting your local CGA Group or by emailing [info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)



WEEKLY MASS AND PRAYERS WORLDWIDE  
ARE OFFERED FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ALL  
MEMBERS AND BRANCHES OF  
THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS  
ASSOCIATION

# **‘Marriage is important - Reflect before you change it’**

## **Statement of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference**

Within weeks the people of Ireland will be asked to vote in a referendum that will change the meaning of marriage in the *Constitution of Ireland*.

Marriage is of fundamental importance for children, mothers and fathers, and society - all of us need to reflect deeply before changing it. We ask the people of Ireland to consider very carefully the profound implications which this constitutional amendment would have on the family environment and on our understanding of parenthood.

We respect the views of people who think differently to us, trusting that our sincerely held views, grounded in faith, will also be heard and respected.

We come to this debate believing that the union of a man and a woman in marriage, open to the procreation of children, is a gift from God who created us 'male and female'. Reason also points to the truth about human sexuality that makes the relationship between a man and a woman unique. Mothers and fathers bring different, yet complementary gifts and strengths into a child's life.



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Archbishop Eamon Martin speaking to the media in Maynooth about the Bishops’ Conference statement on marriage.



We cannot support an amendment to the Constitution which redefines marriage and effectively places the union of two men, or two women, on a par with the marriage relationship between a husband and wife which is open to the procreation of children.

We are concerned that, should the amendment be passed, it will become increasingly difficult to speak any longer in public about marriage as being between a man and a woman. What will we be expected to teach children in school about marriage? Will those who sincerely continue to believe that marriage is between a man and a woman be forced to act against their conscience? Can a way be found to protect the civil rights of gay people without undermining the fundamental meaning of marriage as commonly understood across cultures, faiths and down the ages?

Already, in *The Children and Family Relationships Bill*, it is proposed to remove mention of mothers and fathers from a whole raft of previous legislation.

We encourage everyone to think about these issues and to vote on May 22nd. The effects of this proposed amendment will be far-reaching for this and for future generations. We say to all voters: Marriage is important - Reflect before you change it.

We invite people of faith to bring this decision to prayer. In the coming weeks, and particularly in May, the month of Mary, we call for prayer for Marriage and the Family.

***Statement from the Spring General Meeting  
of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference  
10 March 2015***

For more information see [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)





# National Grandparents Pilgrimage

**Sunday September 13th 2015**

Our Lady of Knock Shrine,  
Knock, Co. Mayo

## Chief Celebrant:

Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick



## Soloist:

Father Liam Lawton

Senior Choir Kildare and Loughlin Diocesan Choir



## Reflection by:

Catherine Wiley - Founder of The CGA



## Children's Prayer Appeal

An invitation to all children to write a prayer for their Grandparents.  
All prayers will be blessed at the pilgrimage. Please send prayers to our office.

2.30pm - Anointing of the Sick with Music and Song  
3.00pm - Pilgrimage Mass followed by the Rosary

Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo Email: [info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com)  
Web: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org) Tel: 011 353 9824877



### Pope Benedict XVI's 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 treasures of sound religious traditions.  
Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,  
that they may pass on to future generations the fruits  
of their mature human and spiritual experience.

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

*Benedictus XVI*  
This Universal Prayer for Grandparents was composed by His Holiness  
Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 for The National Grandparents Pilgrimage





# National Grandparents Pilgrimage



R.C. National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham  
**Sunday 26th July 2015**

In the presence of

**Chief Celebrant - Bishop Peter Doyle**

Bishop of Northampton and Patron of the CGA in England and Wales

**Reflection by Catherine Wiley**

Founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association

**Celebrating St Joachim & St Anne Grandparents of Jesus**



## **A Day of Faith & Fun for all the Family**

11.00 – 11.45. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Reconciliation)

12.00 The Angelus followed by Mass.

13.30 Picnic Lunch and Games with Graham from Fun Force.

14.30 Walsingham Story

15.30 Holy Rosary Procession and Crowning of Our Lady's Statue

16.00 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

## **Prayer Balloon Launch**



Sponsored by The Diocese of Brentwood,  
East Anglia, Northampton and Westminster

If you plan to bring a coach party, please contact: R.C. National Shrine, Pilgrim Bureau,  
Friday Market Place, Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6DB Tel: 01328 820217

For more information please visit: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)

or for enquiries call: +44 (0)1328 560 333

## 5th Grandparents Pilgrimage Aylesford Priory

**Saturday 11th July 2015**  
11.00am to 4.30pm

*A Day of faith and fun for  
all the family.....*




Bringing a coach party? Please Contact  
The Friars, Aylesford Kent ME20 7BX Tel: 01622 717272  
( Follow signposts from M20 "The Friars" )

## 3rd Grandparents Pilgrimage and Day of Prayer at

**The National Shrine of Divine  
Mercy, Stockbridge, MA**


**Saturday 12th September 2015**




 **ARCHDIOCESE  
of  
NEW YORK**

celebrating the first pilgrimage to Ireland's National Marian Shrine with  
**Timothy Cardinal Dolan**  
and the first official chartered pilgrimage from North America to

**KNOCK**

 Participate in Ireland's National Marian Shrine  
in honor of Our Lady of Knock

 Welcome Mass celebrated by  
His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan

**August 8-16, 2015**

Itinerary includes visits to:  
**Connemara ♦ Cliffs of Moher ♦ Killarney ♦ Ring of Kerry**

Pilgrimage arrangements by  
**Peter's Way Tours**



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800-225-7662 • 516-605-1551 • Fax: 516-605-1555



## Catholic Grandparents Association



## WELCOMES ALL GRANDPARENTS

**BISHOP PETER DOYLE  
INVITES ALL  
GRANDPARENTS**

TO JOIN HIM AT ST GREGORY THE GREAT  
PARK AVENUE NORTH, NORTHAMPTON, NN3 2HS

ON  
**FRIDAY MAY 8TH AT 7.30PM**

To formally inaugurate the CGA in the Diocese of Northampton  
The Service will be followed by an address from CGA Founder

**Catherine Wiley**

Refreshments provided in the hall

**CONNECTING GRANDPARENTS WORLDWIDE**

Please contact 01327 361596 or 07850 446202 for more information  
[www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org) e-mail [info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)



# Praying for all grandchildren!

We are ever conscious that at this time of the year, many families will be facing some big changes with their children. Grandparents always seek the very best for their grandchildren, particularly when this comes to preparation for the sacraments.

For those who are preparing for their First Holy Communion and for those awaiting their Confirmation, we ask Our Lord through the Holy Spirit to watch over them and guide them. May these occasions be ones of joy which will sustain them for the rest of their lives.

There is a candle lit for you at the Shrine of Our Lady at Knock



Catherine Wiley's great Niece Ava,  
on her confirmation  
God Bless her all the days of her life.  
*Great Aunt Catherine*

## CGA Patron – Archbishop Michael Neary.

We congratulate Archbishop Michael on the 10th Anniversary of his installation as Archbishop of the Diocese of Tuam, Ireland. Archbishop Michael has always been a great supporter of the work of the CGA both in Ireland and across the world.

We are proud to have him as our Patron.  
Ad multos annos



*In  
Loving  
Memory*

## *We pray for our dear departed.*

*We continue to pray for those members who have reached their eternal rest in the loving arms of Our Lord. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.*

*Amen*

*There is a candle lit for all our departed members, friends and all their families at Our Lady's Shrine at Knock*





## World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 Unveils

### Official Prayer and Iconic Image for September 2015 Event

*The centrality of Christ and the critical importance of love in the family drive the words and imagery of these spiritual works created for this triennial global event.*

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. unveiled the official prayer and iconic image for the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015, which is set to be held next September. Inspired

by the conference theme, “Love is our mission: the family fully alive,” which was announced in May 2014, the conference’s prayer and iconic image were unveiled and blessed by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap. during the Sunday evening Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

“The prayer and iconic image will inspire everyone as we continue to prepare for the 2015 World Meeting of Families,” said Archbishop Chaput. “With their focus on enriching and re-energizing the spiritual life of families – both Catholic and non-Catholic alike, I’m hopeful that this prayer and image can help all of us to examine our minds and hearts and deepen our relationships with God and our families in meaningful ways.”

The official prayer for the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 is meant to aid delegates around the world in their spiritual preparation for this momentous event. Distributed to parishes across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and also accessible via the ‘2015 World Meeting of Families’ web site in 18 languages including American Sign Language, the prayer is meant to serve as a vehicle of hope and faith for families. Encouraging daily recitation for the success of the event and for personal intentions, the prayer is foundational to both the conference’s theme and its planned content.

In addition to an official prayer, the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 has produced a definitive iconic image for the event. This image is a religious work of art meant to encourage both reflection and prayer.

For the 2015 World Meeting of Families, artist Neilson Carlin, based in Kennett Square, PA, was commissioned to create an oil painting of the Holy Family depicting Mary, Joseph and Jesus, as a small child, as well as Mary's parents, Saints Anna and Joachim. The four-by-five foot canvas, which was also unveiled on Sunday with the assistance of students from John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School, Roman Catholic High School, Saint Peter the Apostle School, and Saint Francis Xavier School, will be on display in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul through the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families, which will be held September 22-27, 2015.

There are few images which represent the important link of the Grandparents in our religious art and the essence of their role as 'pre-eminent collaborator' with the parents is captured well. Those coming to the view the iconic image at the Cathedral are encouraged to pray for families around the world by reciting the official prayer and lighting a votive candle at the Marian Shrine.

For more information about the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015, its official prayer or the iconic image for this international event, please visit [worldmeeting2015.org](http://worldmeeting2015.org).

## The World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 Official Prayer

God and Father of us all,  
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,  
you have made us  
your sons and daughters  
in the family of the Church.

May your grace and love  
help our families  
in every part of the world  
be united to one another  
in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family,  
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,  
guide all families, especially those most troubled,  
to be homes of communion and prayer  
and to always seek your truth and live in your love.  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!



The Catholic Grandparents Association  
will be at the World Meeting of Families

Will You?

All enquiries please  
contact:  
[info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)  
or visit [www.worldmeeting2015.org](http://www.worldmeeting2015.org)

# Your gift to future generations!

The work of CGA is funded entirely by donations. Leaving a legacy is a great way of showing you care about the work of CGA and will ensure that we can continue in the future.

Nine out of ten people surveyed would be proud to see parents leave a gift to charity in their will Professor Cathy Pharoah, Co-Director of the ESRC Research Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy at Cass Business School, said: "Families are an important place for passing on the values of giving, and this research shows that children can feel very proud of their parents' desire to support the causes they care about through legacies."

Charitable legacies have the power to help shape the world for future generations. More people are making bequests to charities to causes that they want to support in their memory. Whether your legacy is small or large, it can protect the future of the charitable work you most value.

Our faith is the greatest gift we can give to future generations. If you are thinking about this or maybe your loved one is considering how they too can shape the future, then please consider CGA as a beneficiary.

If you want to progress this then please contact us via [legacies@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](mailto:legacies@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org) or call our UK and International Office on +44 (0) 1328 560 333

## Spread The Word!

Do you realise the **POWER** of being a Grandparent?

Are you aware of how you **INFLUENCE** younger people?

Simple things like blessing yourself in public, saying the Angelus, Grace before Meals and using the Holy

Water Font are minor Faith gestures that could have major results.



### PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Lord Jesus,  
you were born of the Virgin Mary,  
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.  
Look with love on grandparents  
the world over.  
Protect them! They are a source of enrichment  
for families, for the Church  
and for all of society.  
Support them! As they grow older,  
may they continue to be for their families  
strong pillars of Gospel faith,  
guardian of noble domestic ideals,  
living 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!

*Benedictus II in*

**The work of the CGA is supported entirely by voluntary donations. Your donation, large or small will go directly to support the vocation of grandparents in the family. Visit [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org) or contact +44 (0) 1328 560 333**

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