

# Catholic Grandparents Association

## Newsletter January 2022

**Even if all human doors were  
barred, God's door is open.**

**- Pope Francis**



Welcome to the January issue of our newsletter. I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy and Peaceful New Year. Unfortunately there are many places around the world still feeling the effects of the pandemic and we are sadly still hearing about many hospitalisations and deaths from Covid 19. Please, dear Grandparents, keep yourselves safe and well this coming year. We need you all!!

We have a really busy year stretching out ahead of us. We intend to see you each month at our Faith Cafe; We are also planning another Ministry Seminar and are almost there with the new Ministry Guide; We are looking forward to a seminar to mark the *Amoris Laetitia* Family Year and the launch into the World Meeting of Families which also takes place this coming June; and, we are working on additional publications and evangelisation resources.

We are also delighted to have welcomed a new Patron of the CGA, the newly installed Archbishop of Tuam, Archbishop Francis Duffy. We will greatly miss Archbishop Michael Neary's strength and presence in the CGA but we know he won't ever be too far from our thoughts and prayers.

We are also looking forward to the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly which this year will be celebrated on Sunday 24 July. That will also be the date for the National Grandparents Pilgrimage in Knock Shrine. We are already working to revise some of the resources we used last year and we are looking to you to share ideas with us for extra ways we might celebrate the world day.

We hope that you enjoy this month's newsletter. Remember to send us in your news and photos for inclusion. Happy New Year!

**Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA**

## JANUARY FAITH CAFÉ FOCUSES ON GRANDPARENTS AND SYNODALITY

The Grandparents' Faith Café met online on Tuesday 11 January to reflect on the theme of Grandparents and Synodality. Bishop Paul Dempsey, Bishop of Achonry Diocese in Ireland, was our guest speaker.

Bishop Dempsey introduced the theme of the Universal Synod and gave an excellent overview of what is at the very heart of our Synodal journey which is the Holy Spirit.

We encourage Grandparents across the world to get involved in the Universal Synod. You can begin by making contact with your local parish or diocese. There are also a huge number of excellent explanatory resources available on the official website of the Synod which can be accessed at [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va). These resources are available in numerous languages.

We are delighted to be able to share a dedicated section for the Faith Café on the home page of our website. In this section you will be able to book for upcoming Faith Café meetings; listen back to available audio and watch some of the addresses; and you will be able to access the wonderful reflections shared with us by Grandparents each month at the Faith Café. The quick link to access the Faith Café section of the website is [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/faithcafe](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/faithcafe).



### Save the date for the February Faith Café

We are delighted to announce that the guest speaker for our February Grandparents' Faith Café is Dana Rosemary Scallon.

Self-registration is open now on our website on our website - [catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://catholicgrandparentsassociation.org). We look forward to seeing you on 8 February.





## NEW ARCHBISHOP OF TUAM INSTALLED

On Sunday 9 January the new Archbishop of Tuam was installed at a Mss in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Tuam.

Archbishop Francis Duffy succeeds Archbishop Michael Neary as Archbishop of Tuam and as Patron of the Catholic Grandparents Association. We offer our congratulations and prayerful good wishes to Archbishop Duffy. We also offer our gratitude to Archbishop Neary, and assure him of our prayers, as he retires. Archbishop Duffy is pictured above with Archbishop Michael Neary (left) and the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, His Excellency Jude Thaddeus Okolo.



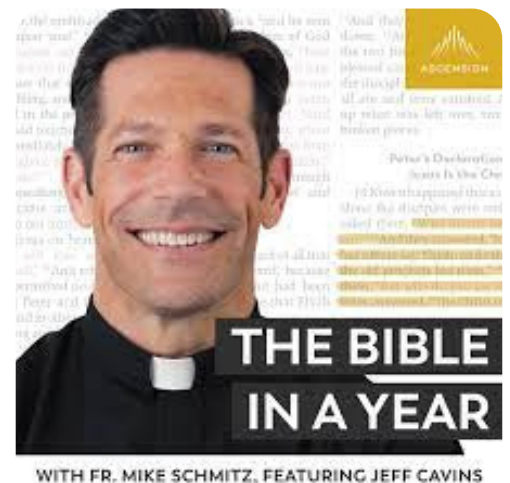
## BIBLE IN A YEAR PODCAST

If you've struggled to read the Bible, then maybe this Bible podcast is for you in 2022.

Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Father Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting on the first of January or anytime because you can always catch up to episodes!

Each 20-25 minute episode includes:

- two to three scripture readings
- a reflection from Fr Mike Schmitz
- and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word.



Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan. This podcast, which started in January 2021 had 150 million downloads last year and was regularly top of the podcast charts.

Why not tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word! For more, simply search your chosen podcast platform and enter 'The Bible in a Year'. We have also added the link to the resources section of our website. Happy listening!



## VISIT OUR ONLINE SHOP

Have you visited our online shop yet? We have lots of wonderful resources and gifts including our CGA medal. Why not stop by for a visit? You can access the shop on our website - [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/shop](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/shop)

## POPE FRANCIS PENS A LETTER TO MARRIED COUPLES

Pope Francis took the opportunity of the Feast of the Holy Family on 26 December to release a letter to married couples as part of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year. In the letter he said, "Marriage, as a vocation, calls you to steer a tiny boat – wave-tossed yet sturdy, thanks to the reality of the sacrament – across a sometimes stormy sea." The Holy Father had a special word for Grandparents in the letter, saying, "Families greatly need grandparents, for they are humanity's living memory, a memory that "can help to build a more humane and welcoming world". You can read the letter in full on [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).



### SAVE THE DATE IN JULY

We are delighted to announce that our new patron, Archbishop Francis Duffy, will be the principal celebrant at Mass for the National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine on Sunday 24 July 2022. We invite you to save the date and we hope to be able to be joined by many Grandparents in person this year. Keep an eye on our website for more information closer to the time!

### MAKE A DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR WORK IN 2022



The CGA is looking for your help so as we can continue our vital ministry of evangelisation and support of Grandparents in their faith. We are asking for a donation so as we can continue to plan events and resource you with materials into 2022 and beyond.

There are many ways you can support us: You can use Paypal on our website, request our bank details for a bank transfer or send us a cheque. Please email us and we will make sure that you can send us a donation in the cost convenient way for you. Thank you in advance!

### CONNECT WITH US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



You can connect with us on Twitter as @CathGrandAssoc and find us on Facebook as 'Catholic Grandparents Association'. We share a daily thought for the day and a range of other helpful resources. So do give us a follow or a like!



**Catholic Grandparents Association**  
**Our Mission: Passing on the faith**  
**and keeping prayer at the heart of family life**  
[www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)  
Email: [info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com)

