



Greetings from the Catholic Grandparents Association

Winter 2022 Newsletter from the Catholic Grandparents Association



Winter is here and with it are all sorts of lists and chores that we have to do in order to prepare for the colder days and the darker evenings. It can be difficult for people to get used to the evenings closing in so quickly.

But this time of year also brings with it the plans for family get togethers for Thanksgiving and for Christmas. These are occasions when people are on the move and when we all tend to throw open the doors to visiting family and friends.

I am particularly fond of this time of year and all the blessings that it can bring. I am lucky to have an abundance of family and friends who will drop by, stay over, share memories, exchange gifts and celebrate the reason for the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Happy Thanksgiving!

I extend a warm Thanksgiving Greeting to our CGA family in the US and to Americans across the world who will celebrate. It's a little early to be wishing you a Happy Christmas - we have the beautiful season of Advent just ahead of us - that time of waiting in joyful hope!

But, as we approach the close of another year I do so with an attitude of gratitude for all the gifts and blessings that the Catholic Grandparents Association has brought into my life over this past year. Thank you to everyone who makes the CGA family what we are. We are grateful for your ongoing interest and support of our work.

We hope that you enjoy our latest news update!

Happy Thanksgiving! May Saint Joachim and Anne bless you and your families. There is a candle lighting for you and your intentions at Knock Shrine.

Catherine Wiley

Founder, Catholic Grandparents Association

www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Registration is open now for Tuesday 13 December

Author Peggy Stanton to be guest speaker for the December Faith Café



The CGA is delighted to announce Peggy Stanton as guest speaker for the December Faith Cafè on Tuesday 13 December.

Peggy will join grandparents from across the world and share reflections and words of wisdom from her new book 'From the White House to the White Cross', a book which she has dedicated to her grandchildren.

Peggy Stanton is a news correspondent, author, illustrator and painter, who served ABC-TV as the first woman news correspondent in Washington, DC. She has produced numerous video documentaries and has been published in The Washington Post, The Washington Star, The Saturday Evening Post, The News Leader, The Islander and Medjugorje magazine. Her book, The Daniel Dilemma, featured nine public figures, including Gerald Ford and Coach Don Shula, and examined how their faith impacted their decisions in public life. Peggy also writes and broadcasts The Order of Malta Minute for The Order of Malta on Ave Maria Radio.

Peggy's paintings have been featured in one woman exhibits in Washington, D.C. and the Marian Museum at the University of Dayton,

the largest Marian Library in the world. In 1990, inspired by a visit to Medjugorje, she created a 501(c)3 organization, [The Mary Anne Foundation](#), named after the Mother and Grandmother of the Prince of Peace. The Foundation's mission is to foster world peace through spiritual means.

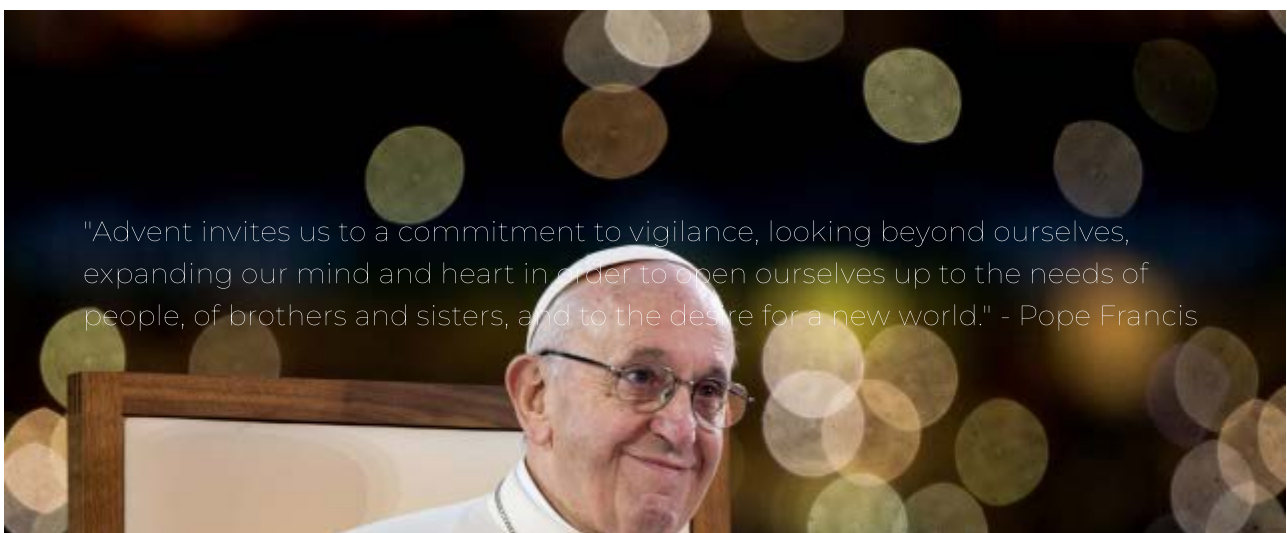
Peggy has also assisted in rehabbing houses in New Orleans and has been a frequent pilgrim to Lourdes as a Dame of Malta, caring for malades who are taken to the Shrine annually by the Order of Malta. She has also produced several videos on Lourdes and has served on the Boards of the National First Ladies' Library, the Ivy Foundation and the Order of Malta.

Registration is open now

Please click on the link below to register in advance of the meeting. After you register you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom link to join the meeting on 13 December. Please check your spam folder as well as your inbox. Please also check the exact time difference.

If you have any queries about the Faith Café please email us on info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com.

[Click here](#)



Latest news

[Some stories of interest:](#)

Re-read your life's story to discover Christ – Pope Francis

Holy See at COP27: Urgency and responsibility should orient work of summit

Cardinal Tagle: Stories and
storytelling make you and
shape you

EU Bishops appeal for an end
to 'madness of war'

Spread Peace this Advent and Christmas



We are living a famine of peace - Pope Francis

In his message for the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Pope Francis addressed the need for peace in our world. He said,

“Our world is passing through a time of trial and testing, beginning with the sudden, violent outbreak of the pandemic, and then by a war that is harming peace and development on a global scale. Nor is it a coincidence that war is returning to Europe at a time when the generation that experienced it in the last century is dying out. These great crises risk anaesthetizing us to the reality of other

“epidemics” and other widespread forms of violence that menace the human family and our common home.

“All this points to the need for a profound change, a conversion, that disarms hearts and leads us to see others as our brothers or sisters. We grandparents and elderly people have a great responsibility: to teach the women and men of our time to regard others with the same understanding and loving gaze with which we regard our own grandchildren. We ourselves have grown in humanity by caring for others, and now we can be teachers of a way of life that is peaceful and attentive to those in greatest need. This attitude may be mistaken for weakness or resignation, yet it will be the meek, not the aggressive and the abusive, who will inherit the earth (cf. Mt 5:5).

“One fruit that we are called to bring forth is protecting the world. “Our grandparents held us in their arms and carried us on their knees”; [\[5\]](#), now is the time for us to carry on our own knees – with practical assistance or with prayer alone – not only our own grandchildren but also the many frightened grandchildren whom we have not yet met and who may be fleeing from war or suffering its effects. Let us hold in our hearts – like Saint Joseph, who was a loving and attentive father – the little ones of Ukraine, of Afghanistan, of South Sudan...”

Sunday Angelus on 20 November 2022

The Pope again addressed the issue of peace at his Sunday Angelus on 20 November in which he said we are living a famine of peace!

Spread Peace this Advent with our Peace Card

We all know that peace begins with us, with our family, our community, our parish! Sadly in many families a peaceful and loving environment does not exist. There is always a way back, there is always hope.

This Advent and Christmas Season we are introducing our Peace Card to encourage you to speak peace, teach peace and spread peace this Advent!

Our Peace Card is a simple e-card that can be downloaded and shared in an email or online through social media. We are asking you to use the Peace Card to share a peace greeting into the world; to begin a conversation with someone you have not spoken to in your family or a friend that you have forgotten over the years. Peace begins with you!

You can download the card from our website, save it as an image file and use it as you see fit. It comes with a very simple and yet profound message: Peace Be With You!

Will you join us and share peace into our troubled world this Advent and Christmas?

[Read more](#)

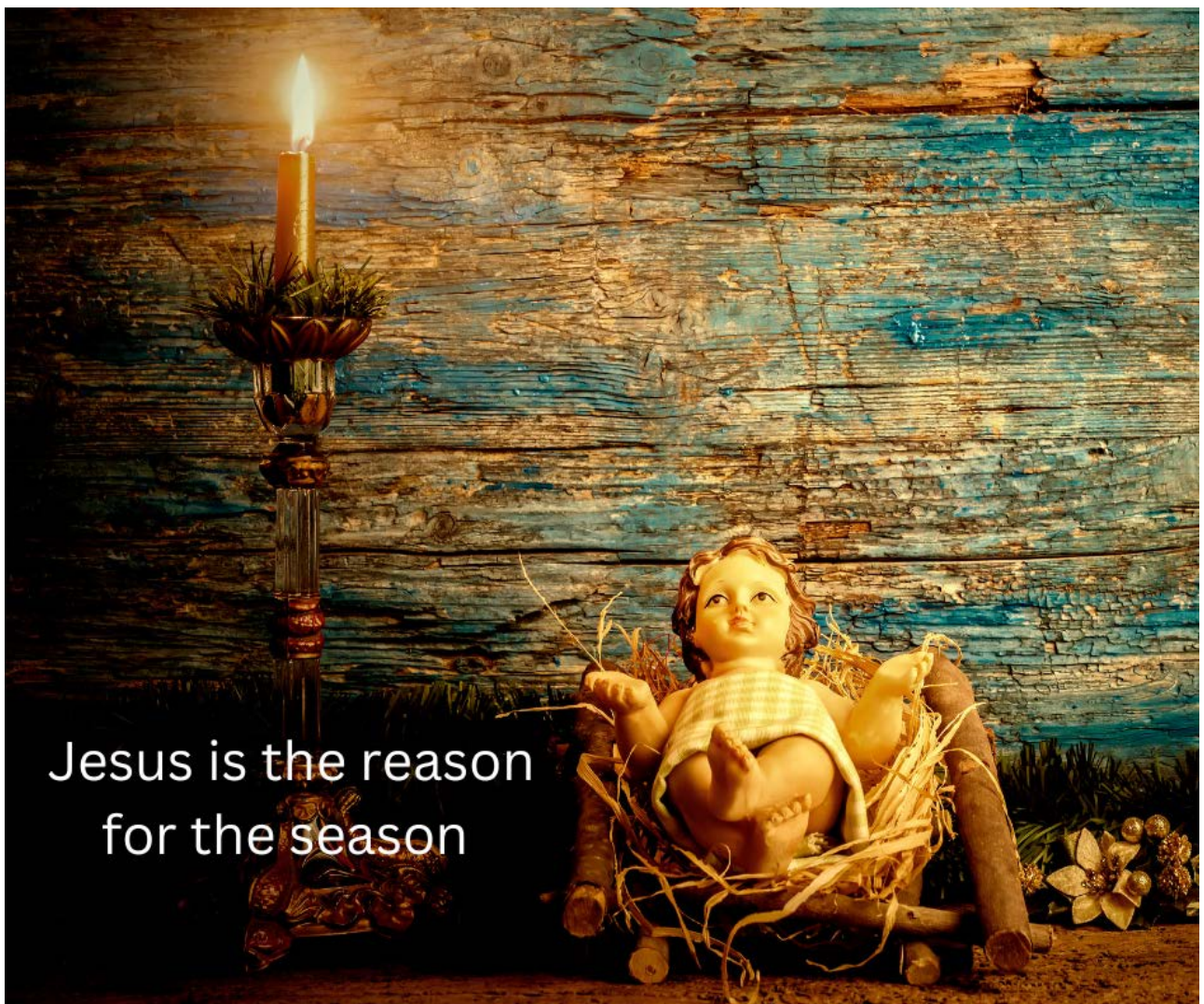
Advent begins on Sunday 27 November

Advent Calendar from the USCCB

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has made available a downloadable Advent Calendar which is available now to download and share.



An invitation to celebrate Bambinelli Sunday on 11 December



Third Sunday of Advent

The Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) has for many years been the day when the children of Rome bring the figurines of Baby Jesus from their family cribs to St. Peter's Square to be blessed by the Pope during the Angelus. The day is affectionately known as "Bambinelli Sunday." Instituted by Pope Saint John Paul II during his Papacy, the tradition has continued and has grown in popularity across the universal Church. Children are invited to wrap the blessed figurines in Christmas wrapping when they return home, and to place them under the tree, to be opened as the first gift of Christmas; thus encouraging young children to make the connection between the gifts they receive on Christmas Day and the greatest gift that any of us can receive, Jesus; and the connection between the Nativity set at home and the local Church where they worship each weekend.

This is one of the easiest traditions to establish in a parish as the only resources needed are; families and their Baby Jesus figurines!

The following prayer was used by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI to accompany the blessing of the Bambinelli in 2008 and could be used in your parish, or you could compose a prayer of your own.

Family Prayer

God our Father, You loved us so much you sent us your only Son, Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, to save us and lead us back to you. We pray that, with your blessing, these images of Jesus might be a sign of your presence and love in our homes. Good Father, give your blessing to all who gather with us this Christmas, our family and friends. Open our hearts, that we might receive Jesus in joy, do always what he asks of us, and see him in those who need our love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son, who came to give peace to the world. You, who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen

CGA Resource

The CGA will have a Bambinelli Resource available on our website for parishes and families to download. All are welcome to avail of it.

[Read more](#)

[What's your favourite Advent or Christmas Prayer?](#)

An Advent Prayer by Henry
Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness yet seeking the light.

To you we say "Come, Lord Jesus".

Amen.



Thanksgiving Prayer

A Simple Prayer of Gratitude

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have surrounded me with people who

always look out for me. You have given me family and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions.



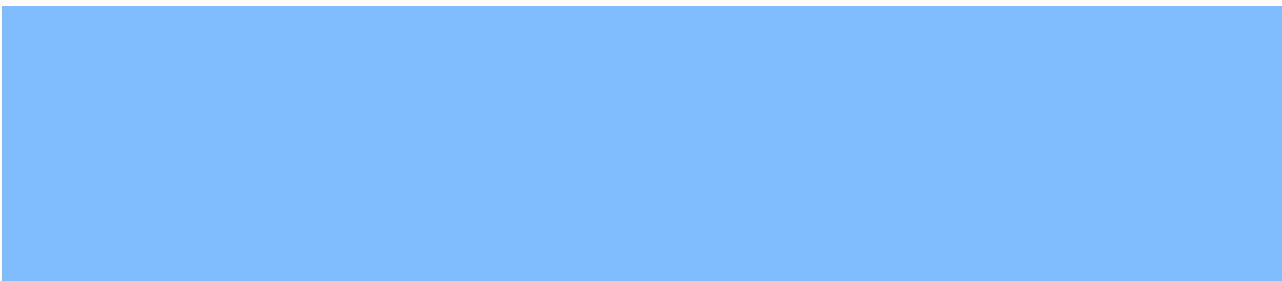
Are you following our Thought for the Day on social media?

Are you following our daily thought for the day on social media?

Each day on our Facebook and Twitter accounts we share a short and colourful pause for the day as a few seconds of inspiration for you as you go about your day.

Why not give us a follow and maybe share one of them with someone you know?

You can find us on Facebook [here](#) and on Twitter [here](#).



My grandparents and parents, the domestic Church, laid a foundation from the kitchen table which helped people like me to see the bigger picture. And that bigger picture is that the Church belongs to Christ and is made up of 'God's holy and faithful people'.
- Fr Bryan Shortall OFM Cap



Holiness consists simply in doing
God's will, and being just what
God wants us to be.
- Saint Thérèse of Lisieux



Book Recommendations from the CGA

These are our book recommendations for the month of November



The Secrets of
Ageless Ageing

by Dr Karen Ward



Discovering the
Land of Virtues with
Grandma Eliza

by Mary Elizabeth Feda



Seven Voices of Joy

by Fr Lorcan Kenny



The best is yet to
come

by Lorene Hanley Duquin

Pope Francis on Grandparents

"The words of grandparents contain something special for young people. And they know it. The words that my grandmother gave me in writing the day of my priestly ordination I still carry with me, always, in the breviary. And I read them often and they do me good."

Pope Francis

Christmas Cards and Gifts available
now

info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

We have a limited supply of our
Christmas decorations now available



along with our Christmas Cards. Both our cards and the Christmas decoration feature the beautiful image of Saint Joachim and Anne with the child Jesus, which is at the centre of our logo. If you are interested in finding out more about the cards and the ceramic ornament please get in touch with us today by email to guarantee delivery before Christmas.



Catholic Grandparents Association
4 Cockle Strand, Murrisk, Westport, Mayo
United Kingdom



We hope you found this message to be useful. However, if you'd rather not receive future emails

[Unsubscribe](#)

