



Prayer Service for Grandparents' Day

Opening hymn

'This is the Day' (*Grow in Love Teacher's Manual – Third Class/Primary 5*, p. 254) or 'Christ be our Light' by Bernadette Farrell (*Grow in Love Teacher's Manual – Fourth Class/Primary 6*, p. 404)

Reading

Reader 1: Today we take time to give thanks to God for the gift of our grandparents. We will now listen to St Paul's letter to the Philippians, where he gives thanks to God for the great joy that comes from the people in our lives.

Reader 2: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (Phil 1:3-11).

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart ... For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Reader 3: St Paul's letter shows us that we live great lives when we are being and doing our best. He shows us how to be grateful for the little things and to be joyful in sharing love with one another. Our grandparents are a good example of how to live our lives well, as they often forgo their own needs to look after us. Grandparents show us how to be family together in our homes and in our school.

Reader 4: Our grandparents share their joy with us and show us how to be in the world. They give us good advice. They help us to be the loving people Jesus would want us to be. They share with us the joy that can be found in Jesus Christ when they pass on their faith to us.

Reader 5: We thank our grandparents for sharing their time with us today. Now let us take the time to bring our prayers to God.





Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools: Communities of Service

Intercessions

We pray for all those who are gathered here: our teachers, the school staff, members of the board of management and members of our families. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our parents and grandparents, who love us, care for us and teach us by their words and deeds how to be like Jesus. We ask you to care for and protect them for us. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Bless all children everywhere: those here in our school, in our families and across the world. May we do all we can to share what we have with children who are in need. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember those who have died, especially grandparents and other members of our families who have gone to God in heaven. We ask Jesus to bless them, as they live forever with the saints in heaven. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 6: Today, on Grandparents' Day, we think of the faith and love that our grandparents share with us. Lord, help us to share all that we have and all that we are. Help us to know the joy of sharing and giving to those in need. Together we pray: *Our Father/Ár nAthair ...*

Final blessing

Loving God, bless all our grandparents, those with us here today, those who cannot be with us and those who have gone to be with you. May they have courage and confidence to hand on your gifts of experience and knowledge of stories, songs and memories. May they continue to learn and grow with us day by day. Bless all of us gathered here today. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing hymn

'A Mhuire Mháthair' (Traditional Arr: Ian Callanan; *Grow in Love Teacher's Manual – Fifth Class/Primary 7*, p. 445) or 'Circle of Friends' (*Grow in Love Teacher's Manual – First Class/Primary 3*, p. 84)

