



Jubilee 2025



Jubilee of Grandparents and Older Persons

26 – 27 July 2025

This weekend, we celebrate the Jubilee of Grandparents and Older Persons, giving thanks for the wisdom, love, and strength that come with age. We honour the generations who have gone before us, whose life experiences and enduring faith continue to inspire and guide us. Grandparents, with their stories and gentle presence, pass down the values of love, patience, and resilience, enriching our lives in countless ways.

Today, we give thanks for the older members of our communities, acknowledging the significant role they play in shaping our families and society. May we continue to support and care for them, recognising their dignity and the blessings they bring to our lives.

Prayers

Example prayers of the faithful

We pray for all our grandparents and older persons, that the Lord may bless them for the care, guidance, and love they have shared with their children and grandchildren. **E te Ariki ...**

Lord, bless our grandparents with joy, good health, and a long life as they continue to be an example of your presence to their children and grandchildren. **E te Ariki ...**

For older persons, that they may know how to be witnesses of the Lord's mercy that extends from generation to generation. **E te Ariki ...**

We pray for older people who experience loneliness and isolation, that they may feel the comforting presence of God's love and the support of their community. **E te Ariki...**

Other prayers for Grandparents and Older Persons

Blessing for Grandparents and Older Persons

Leader: Blessed be God, the source of wisdom and grace through all generations.

R/. Blessed be God forever.





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Leader: Grandparents and older persons are the heart and soul of our families. Their lives are filled with the fruits of wisdom, love, and faith. We thank God for their unwavering example, and we ask that He bless them with strength, joy, and peace.

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the Book of Proverbs (4:7-9):

"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honour you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a fair garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us offer our prayers for all our beloved grandparents and older persons.

Intercessions:

- For our grandparents, that their days be filled with peace and joy, we pray to the Lord.
- For those who are in need of comfort or healing, that they may feel the loving embrace of family and the presence of God's care, we pray to the Lord.
- For those who no longer walk among us, that they may rest in the peace of God's eternal love, we pray to the Lord.

All pray the Lord's Prayer.

Leader:

Almighty God,

We ask Your blessing upon our grandparents and older loved ones. May they continue to grow in grace and wisdom, always rooted in Your love. Surround them with good health, happiness, and peace. Let their lives be a testament to Your faithfulness and a light to future generations. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

Leader concludes with:

May the Lord bless and keep our grandparents and all older persons in His care. May they see the fruit of their years and be surrounded by love and joy always.

R/. Amen.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader concludes:

May God's peace rest upon us all, now and forever.

R/. Amen.





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A Child's Prayer for Grandparents

Dear God, please bless my grandparents.
Thank you for the life they gave my parents and for the life they give to me.
For the ways they helped me and made me strong, I give thanks.
For the ways, they love me no matter what, I rejoice.
For the ways, they have paved the road that leads me here, I am grateful.
Let them grow in wisdom and joy in life.
Let them find peace and rest from their work.
Let them be healed of every sickness and pain.
And let them see with their own eyes your glory and the love of their children and grandchildren.
Bless them always until they come to rest in you. Amen.

From <https://nolacatholic.org/news/a-prayer-for-grandparents>

Prayer of the Elderly by Pope Saint John Paul II

Grant, O Lord of life,
That we may savour every season of our lives as a gift
filled with promise for the future.
Grant that we may lovingly accept your will,
and place ourselves each day in your merciful hands.
And when the moment of our definitive "passage" comes,
grant that we may face it with serenity,
without regret for what we shall leave behind.
For in meeting you,
after having sought you for so long,
we shall find once more every authentic good
which we have known here on earth,
in the company of all who have gone before us
marked with the sign of faith and hope.
Mary, Mother of pilgrim humanity,
pray for us "now and at the hour of our death."
Keep us ever close to Jesus,
your beloved Son and our brother,
the Lord of life and glory. Amen!

From <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-elderly-pope-saint-john-paul-ii>





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Reflection on the Jubilee of Grandparents and Older Persons

Read the following reflection out during Mass/within your faith communities over the weekend of 26 – 27 July 2025, or distribute for personal reflection.

I remember, as a child, listening to elder relatives share stories from the past. The war years had taught them to treasure life, faith, and family. Their wisdom spoke to me of bravery, endurance, and the resilience of the human spirit. They looked beyond behaviour and situations to see the beauty in their loved ones. As pillars of our large family, their guidance helped us not take ourselves too seriously. Whether gentle or firm, I always knew their direction came from a place of love. They had our backs, saw the bigger picture, and encouraged us to love and forgive ourselves. Their presence grounded me as I grew into adulthood, providing stability along the way.

Now, as an Oma, I look forward to my grandchildren's visits. We cherish time away from the bustle of school and busy schedules, enjoying a slower pace of life. Simple moments—walking through the bush, playing in the park, or sowing seeds—bring us the most joy. Their warm, open hearts make me feel God's presence in a real and tangible way.

While we bake biscuits, I share stories of growing up in a large extended family. I want them to know they belong, to be familiar with traditions, culture, and faith, and to feel loved and secure, knowing where they came from. Together, we pray before meals and bedtime, and I encourage them to listen to the Spirit, who whispers gently in their hearts. They already know God is a great Maker, and we marvel together at how everything in nature has been perfectly designed. At Mass, I remind them that they will always be welcome, and I pray they will find their place in the world, view themselves with compassion, and never stop dreaming.

I also want to take a moment to salute the grandparents within our Catholic community who have raised their own families and are now helping to nurture the next generation. Thank you for 'standing in the gap' so that young ones may thrive. Your sacrifices, your lessons, your care, and your role as positive role models are invaluable. The support you offer today will shape the future for your grandchildren, who will look ahead with hope because YOU chose to love. Your example is an inspiration to all.

Miriam Van Der Lee

Parishioner of Immaculate Conception Parish, Stratford

Suggestions for celebrating this Jubilee in your communities

- **Use the provided prayers of the faithful or write your own**
Write prayers that honour the wisdom and contributions of grandparents and older





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persons, asking for blessings of health, peace, and gratitude for their role in nurturing the faith of future generations.

- **Read out the reflection during mass or in your faith communities**

Share the provided reflection with printed copies available for those who wish to reflect privately.

- **Host a special mass or service for grandparents and older persons**

Celebrate a dedicated Mass or service to honour the elderly, offering prayers of thanks for their lives and their role in passing on the faith.

- **Organise a social event or afternoon tea for grandparents and older persons**

Host a special social gathering, such as a morning or afternoon tea, where grandparents and older persons can come together to share stories, enjoy fellowship, and feel appreciated.

- **Offer blessings for grandparents and older persons**

Provide a special blessing or prayer for older persons during Mass, asking God to continue to bless them with strength, joy, and peace as they grow in age and grace.

- **Share stories and testimonials of older persons**

Encourage older members of your community to share their faith stories or experiences, whether through a special event or in a community newsletter or bulletin, to highlight the richness of their lives.

- **Create a memory wall or display**

Set up a display featuring photos, stories, or memories of older persons in the community, celebrating their lives and the legacy they have passed on to younger generations.

- **Collaborate with local schools or youth groups**

Encourage children and young people to spend time with their grandparents and older persons, perhaps through a school project or youth group activities, to foster intergenerational bonds.

- **Provide support for older persons in the community**

Organise a campaign to provide practical support for elderly community members, such as delivering groceries, offering companionship, or assisting with household tasks. This could be a way to show love and appreciation for their presence in your community.

- **Celebrate grandparents on the feast of saints Joachim and Anne**

Hold a special celebration on the feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), honouring grandparents with a Mass or service, offering prayers for their health and wisdom, and celebrating their vital role in nurturing faith within the family.

