

SETTING UP A GRANDPARENT GROUP

The structure of each group varies, but will normally include the Papal Prayer for Grandparents, with prayers also offered for grandchildren, and those grandparents who are alone or isolated.

It is important to remember that this is your Grandparent Group - you are free to build it in ways that benefits your parish community. To support you, group leaders will be given the opportunity to meet Diocesan Group Co-ordinators, Christine and Mike Evans, across the year, to share news and updates and discover what other groups have planned.

For more information about starting a group in your Parish, contact the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Adviser Deacon Simon South;

E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

To find out more about diocesan news and events scan the QR code and sign up to receive the weekly diocesan E-Bulletin or visit our website events page:



www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events

To contact the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Adviser Deacon Simon South;

E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

PAPAL 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

www.abdiocese.org.uk

The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton is a Registered Charity No. 252878

PARISH GRANDPARENT GROUPS



"Is not wisdom found among the grandparents? Does not long life bring understanding?" Job12:12



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

GRANDPARENT GROUP MISSION & VISION

The Diocese has a network of parish-based Grandparent Groups which meet to support each other and to pray together for their grandchildren. The aim of Grandparent Groups are:

- To empower grandparents to pass on their faith to the next generation
- To sustain and support grandparents in their own faith journey.
- To keep prayer at the heart of family life
- To raise awareness of the vital contribution that grandparents make to Church, family and society.
- To help grandparents know that they are valued and supported.
- To help and encourage grandparents to recognise the value of their own personal witness for their family and parish community.
- To create positive, memorable and joyful experiences for grandparents and their grandchildren within the Church setting.

A wide range of topics can be discussed during Grandparent Group meetings, with a key benefit of each group found in the mutual support and encouragement that is offered by members of the group to each other.

GRANDPARENT GROUP NEWS AND EVENTS



The Diocese holds an annual **Grandparents' Pilgrimage Day** to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation at West Grinstead, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard.

Grandparents are also welcome to join our annual **Formation Day**, with a range of speakers, educating and encouraging attendees in their mission as Catholic Grandparents.

Finally, the diocese issues **"Grand News"** a dedicated newsletter published three times a year which highlights the activities and ideas of different groups, while providing shared wisdom and insight from across our Grandparent Group network and beyond.

CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Diocese is affiliated with the Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA). Founder, Catherine Wiley writes: "[Grandparents] want to do their best for their grandchildren. They want them to be decent human beings, to know the difference between right and wrong, able to make good moral decisions and if they go astray along the way, to be able to find their way back to a loving forgiving, non-judgmental God.

"Grandparents' vital contribution to the family, Church and society was never as important as now. We are living in unprecedented times with constantly changing social and moral values. Sometimes we feel we are failing – we are not. We can never fail as long as we keep on doing what we are doing: praying, showing the way and passing on the faith."

The CGA website includes a range of news with ideas and inspiration for Grandparent Groups. To find out more visit:
www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.com

