



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF

GRAND NEWS

Celebrating Our Grandparents

Grandparents Week Oct. 2015

January 2016
Volume 1, Issue 1

As a Diocese within the Province it is our aim to raise the profile of grandparents and to support them in their role.

In many families grandparents are playing a more significant role; helping with childcare, providing stability in fractured families and passing on the faith. The current generation of grandparents has a wealth of knowledge and experience and a desire to plant in their grandchildren a seed of

faith where parents may have lost interest or have fallen away from the church.

During Our Grandparents' Week: (18th – 25th October) the parishes and schools of our archdiocese were invited to do something to celebrate the gifts that grandparents bring. They were encouraged to involve the many within the parishes who would welcome the opportunity to become an honorary grandparent – either

where families have deceased relatives or where they simply live too far away. There was no set format & imaginations ran riot; and thankfully we had reports from some as well as photographs which we wish to share with you!

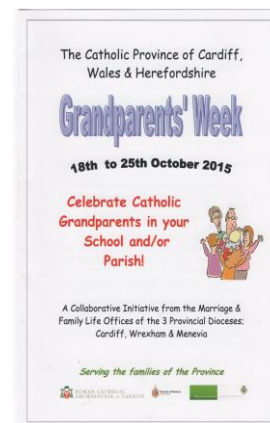
These are only a few examples of what took place and the variety of events was inspiring!

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A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own, so she likes other people's little girls and boys.
A grandfather is a man grandmother.
He goes for walks with the boys and they talk about football and fishing and things like that.
Grandmas don't have to do anything except be there.
They're old - so they shouldn't play hard or run.
If they take us for walks they should slow down past pretty things like leaves or caterpillars.
They should never ever say 'hurry up'.
Usually they are fat.
But not too fat to tie childrens shoes.
They wear glasses and funny underwear.
They can take their teeth and gums off.
They don't have to be clever except to answer questions like - 'why do dogs hate cats?' and 'how come God isn't married?'
They don't talk baby talk like visitors do because it's hard to understand.
When they read to us they don't skip pages or mind if it's the same story again.
Everyone should try to have one - especially if you don't have a television,
because grandmas are the only grown-ups who've got time for you.

Author unknown but quote found in my late Nanna's papers. (JW – FLW)



Invitation sent to all
parishes & schools

**Declan (aged 8) said
his 'Gransha' is his
role model because;
'He will take me out
on the motorbike
when I've been good,
He cares and makes
me feel safe & is
always fair'**

Do you have stories to share?

If you have stories of how your school and or parish have celebrated your grandparents then we'd love to hear about them.

They may well appear in future newsletters or in displays at the Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey in July (see the back page for details of the pilgrimage and where to send your stories)

St Patrick's

Parish & Primary, Grangetown, Cardiff



We incorporated our celebration of Grandparents in to School / Parish Sunday Mass by including bidding prayers for Grandparents. The photo shows Grandparents

receiving a special Blessing from Fr Bogdan at the end of the Mass; not all in the congregation came forward but we gave over 100 prayer cards all Grandparents at Mass. The school children were also given Grandparent related homework tasks.

*Mary Taylor, Parishioner & RE
Coordinator at St Patrick's Primary*

St Richard Gwyn High School, Barry



During our 'Give your faith a boost' Family evening, we gave a special welcome to grandparents during Archdiocesan Grandparents week, as part of the Mission at St Richard Gwyn. This event was open to all with a retiring collection for CAFOD.

Mrs Nicola Price (chaplain) St Richard Gwyn Catholic High

St David's

Primary & Parish Newport

Our celebration of our Grandparents began with class discussions the week before half term. Every child was given a project for the half term. They were asked to interview their grandparent(s) focussing on life changing events, world events and advice for the future. The result was amazing!! We were inundated with posters, photographs, books and mind maps. To celebrate this and all of the love and support our Grandparents show to our children and our school, we dedicated the Sunday's Family mass to them; followed by tea and chat afterwards, where the congregation had the chance to look at the children's work. Hope you enjoy as much as we did!

Lucy Massey, RE Coordinator



St. Mary's & St Patrick's

Nursery & Primary, Measteg

'We were invited in on different days for different classes, each teacher doing something on their own. We had a concert from year 4 and reading of prayers they had written about their grandparents. (one (child) even said 'please look after them until they die'. It brought a laugh, and a few tears.) Then year 1 had Grans in to read a story. Year 2 did craft and smoothie making. Year 3 read poems they had written (then they gave the tissues around!!!!) They also gave us a bookmark they had made for us (grandparents). Nursery had them in to play. Grans told me they thought it was a wonderful idea. They were crying, laughing and proud. Thanks for that!

Michelle and Anthony (Grandparents to children in the school.)



St. Mary's Primary Chepstow

'We were delighted to welcome 167 Grandparents to our afternoon tea. Grandparents and grand friends were welcomed on arrival with tea, coffee and cake provided by the PTA. Then our year six children showed all our visitors around the bustling school; with special welcomes from each class. Finally grandparents and grand friends were treated to an excellent musical performance by our talented Key Stage Two musicians.'

*Miss Joanna Williams
RE Co-ordinator*

"I thought we'd get around 20-30 grandparents turn up! They are queueing out the door." Said the bewildered head, Mr A. Szwagrzak



Our Lady of the Angels Primary & Nursery, Cwmbran

"Our grandparents joined their grandchildren to experience a wonderful creative curriculum experience.

They all had great fun in the forest school area making nature trails."

*Sheelagh McCool
Headteacher*



**Joanne White –
FAMILY LIFE
WORKER**

**Archdiocesan Family
Support Project**

Pastoral Resources Centre, 910
Newport Road, Rumney, Cardiff,
CF3 4LL

Tel: (029)20 365964

Email parenting@rcadc.org

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/RcadCParenting>

and via our Blog

<http://rcadcparenting.wordpress.com>



Our project aims to strengthen and develop the support the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff can offer to the parents within its communities; specifically through extending existing provision of parenting programmes which affirm and develop parenting skills.

The Marriage and Family Life Support Project (MFLSP) - in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Family Life Commission (FLC), all volunteers – also looks to engage, equip and encourage parishes across the archdiocese to reflect the three Celebrating Family themes - Everybody's Welcome, Home is a Holy Place and Passing on the Faith, which form the bedrock of the bishops' national strategy for supporting family life: Celebrating Family: Blessed, Broken, Living Love.

The sacred vocation of parenthood; raising our children to be loving, responsible people.

The Family Life worker post is funded by the Celebrating Families Fund 2014 – 2016 of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales and by the Trustees for the Archdiocese of Cardiff.

A Grand Day Out – Saturday July 16th 2016

The First Provincial Pilgrimage for Grandparents and their families is to take place on Saturday 16th July, at Belmont Abbey, Hereford.

It is becoming more and more evident that it is the grandparents play a major role in passing on the faith to their families and it is this vital task that the pilgrimage looks to recognise and support.

This promises to be a day filled with family fun as well as providing opportunities for grandparents to share their faith with their families and celebrate together.

It is anticipated that parishes & deaneries will arrange coaches to bring families from across the Province to the event and so there is the potential for many to attend. The three provincial bishops and the Abbot have

been invited to concelebrate the concluding Mass.

The event coincides with the 100th anniversary year of the establishment of the Cardiff Archdiocese and also occurs during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. With Belmont Abbey being home to one of the designated Holy Doors, this event gives participants an ideal opportunity to fulfil the invitation made by Pope Francis for us to embark on a pilgrimage to one of the Holy Doors during this Jubilee Year.

All grandparents of our Catholic Province (& beyond) are invited to come along with their families; to bring a picnic & enjoy a day of fun and faith together in the beautiful settings of Belmont Abbey.

There are no admission charges though donations will be welcomed on the day. For more details and future information please look for

posters at the back of church, forthcoming editions of the Catholic People and the Archdiocesan website www.rcadc.co.uk or contact the Family Support worker directly (contact details on the back page).

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF

The Catholic Dioceses of Cardiff, Menevia & Wrexham
Invite You to Belmont Abbey for

A Grand Day Out

The Provincial Pilgrimage of Faith and Fun for
Grandparents and their Families
Saturday 16th July, 2016

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 11am | Gathering Service |
| During the afternoon | Family Activities, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Football/Cricket |
| | Bring a picnic |
| | Light refreshments also available in Hedley Lodge |
| | Eucharistic Adoration |
| | Sacrament of Reconciliation |
| | Access to Holy Door, Prayer Balloons, Prayer Wall, Rosary Way |
| 3pm | Concelebrated Mass |

To enquire about transport arrangements contact your Diocesan Co-ordinator

Cardiff: Mrs Joanne White, Family Life Worker, parenting@rcadc.org, 02920 365964

Menevia: Mr Dominic Bell, Family Life Director, dominic@rcadc.org, 01437 767395

Wrexham: Mr Margaret Eaton, Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Co-ordinator, margaret@rcadc.org, 01984 296619