



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

6 July 2021

**“I am with you always” (cf. Mt.28:20)
World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - 25 July 2021**

Your Graces, My Lords and Reverend Monsignors,

My prayerful greetings to you.

As our varying states grapple with changing COVID realities, presenting continued challenges for our elderly and vulnerable, and families separated locally and globally, it is timely that we now look to how we acknowledge and honour the gifts of age and the continued mission of our older people as holy faithful People of God.

His Eminence, Cardinal Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, has recently provided a number of pastoral and liturgical resources (attached to this email) for the forthcoming **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**, which will be celebrated for the first time this year on **25 July**.

With the hopes of deeply embedding this joyous celebration into the lives of the faithful, please be encouraged to share among your communities so that we might look at creative ways that connect all generations and give concrete expression to our pastoral concern and respect for older people.

It would be appropriate, for example, that every parish might dedicate one of the Sunday Masses to grandparents and the elderly on Sunday 25 July as the memorial of Sts Joachim and Ann, grandparents of Jesus approaches. It should also be a time when each of us are encouraged to reach out to family, friends, neighbours, the aged, the lonely, and the sick, with the heart of the Gospel words “*I am with you always..*”

Yours fraternally in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Chairman, Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement