

PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS' DAY WEDNESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY

Involve grandparents in the Prayer Service by inviting them to read various parts.

Leader:

We begin by making the Sign of the Cross together...

As we light our candle we remind ourselves that our friend Jesus is with us always and everywhere, but in a special way when we take time to pray to him and when we take time to remember. Today we give thanks for the gift of our grandparents and we begin by welcoming them in song.

Hymn:

*The children sing a hymn e.g. Connected, Alive O 4, p 14,
Gather Round, Alive O 4, p 15.
This is the Day, Alive O 4, p 327*

Leader:

We want to extend a very warm welcome to all the grandparents who have joined us here. For some of you it's your very first visit to the school; for others it's a daily visit to collect your grandchild. We also remember the grandparents who cannot be with us, those who could not travel, those who live far away, those who are sick, and those who are with God in heaven. They are all in our thoughts wherever they are today.

LET US LISTEN TO A SHORT REFLECTION ON GRANDPARENTS

Read by.....

A Special Kind of Love

There's a special kind of love that grandchildren have for their grandparents.

It's filled with respect for their wisdom and accomplishments;

With gratitude for the values they've given us...

with delight in the stories of our family that they remember and share.

It's a special kind of love that's built on a lifetime of caring and giving.

It's the kind of love that's felt for you my dear grandparent, today and always.

(Courtesy of Grandparents Association, Westport, Co. Mayo)

OR

Grandparents are a family's greatest treasure,

The founders of a loving legacy, the greatest storytellers,

The keepers of traditions that linger on in cherished memory.

Grandparents are the family's strong foundation.

Their very special love sets them apart.

Through happiness and sorrow,

through their special love and caring,

Grandparents keep a family close at heart. *(Author unknown)*

OR

Grandparents bestow upon their grandchildren
the strength and wisdom that time and experience have given them.
Grandchildren bless their grandparents
with a youthful vitality and innocence that help them stay young at heart for ever.
Together they create a chain of love linking the past with the future.
The chain may lengthen, but it will never part... (*Author unknown*)

Scripture Reading: (*Luke 2:22-40*)

For a simpler version use adaptation in Alive O 3, page 269

Hymn: Gather Round, (*Alive O 4, p 15*)

My Shepherd is the Lord (*Alive O 4, p 236*)

Leader:

As we come together to celebrate the gift of grandparents, we remember that today we also celebrate the Feast of the Presentation, when Jesus was presented to be blessed in the temple. Let us listen to the story of his presentation now.

Reader:

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to be blessed just like your parents brought you to the church to be baptised. Some of your grandparents are going to tell us what they thought and felt on the day you were baptised. (*Give the grandparents time to chat to their grandchild. If children do not have a grandparent present, have it prearranged that they join up with a friend's grandparent*)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader:

As we continue to celebrate Catholic Schools Week here atSchool,
We bring our prayers before Jesus our friend.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Child 1:

We pray for our all those here present, our teachers, the school staff and family members. We give thanks to Jesus for the love they share with us. *Lord, hear us.*

Child 2:

We pray for our parents and grandparents who love us and care for us. We ask you to care for them and to protect them for us. *Lord, hear us.*

Adult 1:

We give thanks for the teachers here in this school. Give them the gifts they need to teach each day. Bless them with the gifts of your love, understanding and patience in their work. *Lord, hear us.*

Adult 2:

Bless all the children here and across the world. May all children learn to share the love of Jesus with one another. *Lord, hear us.*

Child 3:

We ask you, Jesus, to bless those of our grandparents who are sadly no longer with us. We ask you to bless them, as they live forever with you and the saints in heaven. *Lord, hear us.*

Leader:

We place all our prayers spoken aloud, or in the silence of our hearts, before our loving God and Father as we pray together...**Our Father...**

Leader:

Let us offer each other a **sign of peace**. "*Peace, be with you.*" **Response:** "*And also with you.*"

Leader:

Invite the children to come into the centre and face all the grandparents, with their hands extended at arms level, palms turned down in blessing... and pray the following blessing.

OR

The children could extend their hands in blessing, as above, and three individuals with strong voices say the blessing on behalf of all the children.

Blessing

Bless all gathered here today.

Bless those who cannot be with us today.

Bless all our grandparents with love and good health.

Closing Hymn:

Options...

Christ is my Light... (Alive O 3, p52)

Time and Time Again... (Alive O 6, p 292)

Circle of Friends... (Alive O 4, p 27)

Christ Be Beside Me... (Alive O 3, p169)

We Sing a Song to Brigid... (Alive O 5, p 377)

If the children are in Junior to Second class—invite the grandparents to trace the sign of the cross on their grandchild...as a reminder of their baptism. This would offer the opportunity for the grandparent to share a memory of how s/he felt at the time of the child's baptism.

ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTS' DAY

1. Ask your grandparent(s) to help you make a book of their favourite prayers.
2. Write about a favourite memory that you share with your grandparent(s).
3. Talk to your grandparents(s) about what school was like when they were your age. What was their classroom like? How many were in the class? What did they like about school?

What did they wear? What had they for lunch? How did they travel to school? Do they ever meet some of their class/school friends?

4. Is your grandparent good at knitting, painting, football, sewing, gardening, caring for pets?

If so, ask them to teach you.

5. Write a prayer or a poem for your favourite grandparent.

6. Fold an A4 page in two. In the front print...TO MY FAVOURITE GRANDPARENT...

Open out the page and on the left side draw a large flower. Paste a cut-out photo of yourself in the centre of the flower. On the right side draw a big picture of the sun and paste a cut-out photo of your grandparent in the centre. WRITE...YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE on the page.