



DICASTERIUM  
PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

Vatican, 22 June 2021

**Prot. No. 2021/540**

Excellency,

Today, the Holy Father's video message was published for the first *World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*, which will be celebrated next 25 July. I am happy to convey it to you, along with some pastoral and liturgical guidelines that our Dicastery has prepared for the occasion.

We have chosen to give pride of place to the local celebration of this *Day*, so as to ensure that its joyous message reaches every grandparent and elderly person effectively, even the most isolated. With this in mind, it would be especially meaningful if, as the *Day* approaches, the message that was announced today — “I am with you always” (cf. Mt. 28:20) — could be delivered by every grandchild to their own grandparents, and by young people to the lonely elderly members of their communities.

Additionally, it would be appropriate for every parish to dedicate one of their Sunday Masses to grandparents and the elderly on Sunday 25 July, as the memorial of Sts. Joachim and Ann, grandparents of Jesus approaches.

Confident that every diocese will, with great pastoral creativity, find ways to celebrate the *World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly* in a way that is best suited to their own cultural context, I send you my cordial greetings in the Risen Lord.

Card. Kevin Farrell

*Prefect*

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Most Reverend Mark Benedict COLERIDGE  
President  
Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (A.C.B.C.)