



St. Anne's Parish

Pastoral Community of Derriaghy & Colin

Fr. Peter O'Hare, PP
Rev Pat McNeill, Deacon
Sr. Mary Murray, Parish Sister

Parish Office: 02890610112
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Parish Centre: 07745169205
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17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Week in St. Anne's

Sunday Mass: 5pm Vigil & 11am

Weekday Mass: Tues, Wed & Thurs at 10am

Confessions: Sat 4.30pm or before any mass.

Remember -

All services are streamed live online



Parish Office: Mon to Fri 9am to 1pm.

Parish WhatsApp Group – Keep up to date with what is happening in our parish communitytext your name and number to 07714691281 to be added to our WhatsApp group.

Recently Deceased: John (Don) Burns, Isobel McCourt.

Your Giving This w/end - **Weekly Offering**

- We would recommend that you set up a **Standing Order**. You can download the necessary forms from our website...or call the parish office on 028 90610112 and leave your details or email us on stannes@downandconnor.org

OR Donate Online to St. Anne's Parish

A/C No. 07707787
Sort Code 93 83 00

St. Vincent de Paul

Anyone wishing to donate, can do so online:

Account Name: St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Anne
Account No. 65576181 **Sort Code:** 938300.

FoodBank

The Foodbank has now resumed accepting donations. As always, thank you for your continued generous support. The collection boxes are available outside the church every day from 10am to 4pm.

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

- At the heart of this story, we are told that Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed them. In our day this reminds us of the Eucharist, the bread of life, with which Jesus feeds us. Can you recall an experience of Eucharist that was especially significant for you? What was it that made it different? How did it influence your understanding of the Eucharist?
- Take, give thanks, distribute. The actions of Jesus also suggest an attitude to time, gifts and living. We take what we are given, give thanks, and use what we have. Have you found that having a grateful heart for what you have been given has made it easier for you to share with others?
- From what seemed meagre and inadequate resources many were fed. When have you found that when you gratefully use what little resources you have the results are beyond your expectations?
- Jesus chose to involve those around him in feeding the people. Have there been times when you have experienced benefits from calling on those around you to use their gifts to help with a task?

Pope Benedict XVI's 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,
guardians 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 role 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!

Today's Liturgy of the Word

Scripture themes

Jesus shows himself to be the true Messiah and the true prophet by the miracle of the loaves and fishes. In taking, giving thanks and distributing, Jesus performs the actions that will distinguish the Eucharist.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44

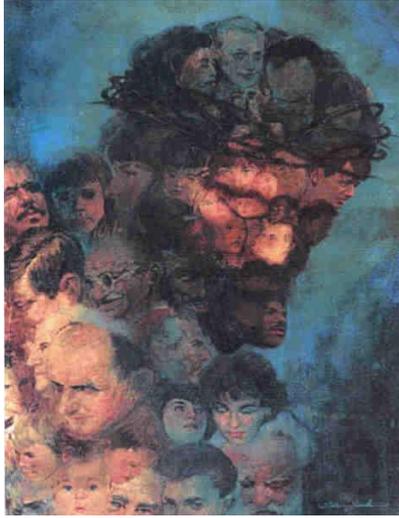
A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over." He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:10-11. 15-18.

Response: You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. *Response*
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. *Response*
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. *Response*

SECOND READING



A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 4:1-6

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of

all, through all and within all.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 6: 63. 68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:1-15

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee or of Tiberias and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only

said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, '*Make the people sit down.*' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, '*Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.*' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.



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WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND
THE ELDERLY - SUNDAY 25 JULY 2021

WILL YOU PLANT A TREE IN THEIR MEMORY?



Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.



THE FIRST EVER WORLD
DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS
AND THE ELDERLY WILL
BE CELEBRATED ON
SUNDAY 25 JULY 2021.

THE CATHOLIC
GRANDPARENTS
ASSOCIATION IS
INVITING FAMILIES AND
LOCAL PARISHES TO
PLANT A TREE IN
THANKSGIVING FOR ALL
GRANDPARENTS AND
ELDERS AND IN MEMORY
OF THOSE WHO ARE NO
LONGER WITH US.
JOIN US TO MARK THIS
MOMENTOUS OCCASION
IN THE LIVES OF
GRANDPARENTS AND THE
ELDERLY.

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE OUR WEBSITE
WWW.CATHOLICGRANDPARENTSASSOCIATION.COM

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

(25 July 2021)

I am with you always

Dear Grandfathers and Grandmothers,

Dear Elderly Friends,

"I am with you always" (Mt 28:20): this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends. "I am with you always" are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!

I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly persons. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.

The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time. He is close to those who felt isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic. Tradition has it that Saint Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus, felt estranged from those around him because he had no children; his life, like that of his wife Anne, was considered useless. So the Lord sent an angel to console him. While he mused sadly outside the city gates, a messenger from the Lord appeared to him and said, "Joachim, Joachim! The Lord has heard your insistent prayer". [1] Giotto, in one of his celebrated frescoes, [2] seems to set the scene at night, one of those many sleepless

nights, filled with memories, worries and longings to which many of us have come to be accustomed.

Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic, the Lord continues to send *angels* to console our loneliness and to remind us: "I am with you always". He says this to you, and he says it to me. That is the meaning of this Day, which I wanted to celebrate for the first time in this particular year, as a long period of isolation ends and social life slowly resumes. May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an *angel*!

At times those angels will have the face of our grandchildren, at others, the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us. How sad it makes me that in some places these are still not possible!

The Lord, however, also sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand. Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord's faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today. For at every hour of the day (cf. *Mt* 20:1-16) and in every season of life, he continues to send labourers into his vineyard. I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age and thought I would not be doing anything new. The Lord is always – *always* – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (28:19-20). These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a

grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

At this crucial moment in history, you have a renewed vocation. You may wonder: How this can be possible? My energy is running out and I don't think I can do much. How can I begin to act differently when habit is so much a part of my life? How can I devote myself to those who are poor when I am already so concerned about my family? How can I broaden my vision when I can't even leave the residence where I live? Isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? How many of you are asking just that question: isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? Jesus himself heard a similar question from Nicodemus, who asked, "How can a man be born when he is old?" (*Jn* 3:4). It can happen, the Lord replies, if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever, and does whatever, he wills.

As I have often observed, we will not emerge from the present crisis as we were before, but either better or worse. And "God willing... this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing... If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators... If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human frailty can experience a rebirth" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 35). No one is saved alone. We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters.

Given this, I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will live once the storm has subsided. All of us must "take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies" (*ibid.*, 77). Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are *dreams, memory and prayer*. The Lord's closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

The prophet Joel once promised: "Your old men shall dream *dreams*, and your young men will have visions" (3:1). The future of the world depends on this covenant between young and old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions; in this way, together, we can build the future. You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now.

Dreams are thus intertwined with *memory*. I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message. Keeping memory alive is a true mission for every elderly person: keeping memory alive and sharing it with others. Edith Bruck, who survived the horror of the Shoah, has said that "even illuminating a single conscience is worth the effort and pain of keeping alive the memory of what has been." She went on to say: "For me, memory is life." [3] I also think of my own grandparents, and those among you who had to emigrate and know how hard it is to leave everything behind, as so many people continue to do today, in hope of a future. Some of those people may even now be at our side, caring for us. These kinds of memory can help to build a more humane and welcoming world. Without memory, however, we will never be able to build; without a foundation, we can never build a house. Never. And the foundation of life is memory.

Finally, *prayer*. As my predecessor, [Pope Benedict](#), himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, [once said](#): "the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others." [4] He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need (cf. [Evangelii Gaudium](#), 262). Especially in these difficult times for our human family, as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic, your intercession for the world and for the Church has great value: it inspires in everyone the serene trust that we will soon come to shore.

Dear grandmother, dear grandfather, dear elderly friends, in concluding this Message to you, I would also like to mention the example of Blessed (and soon Saint) Charles de Foucauld. He lived as a hermit in Algeria and there testified to "his desire to feel himself a brother to all" ([Fratelli Tutti](#), 287). The story of his life shows how it is possible, even in the solitude of one's own desert, to intercede for the poor of the whole world and to become, in truth, a universal brother or sister.

I ask the Lord that, also through his example, all of us may open our hearts in sensitivity to the sufferings of the poor and intercede for their needs. May each of us learn to repeat to all, and especially to the young, the words of consolation we have heard spoken to us today: "I am with you always"! Keep moving forward! May the Lord grant you his blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 31 May 2021, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

FRANCIS

[1] The episode is narrated in the Protoevangelium of James.

[2] This image has been chosen as the logo for the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly.

[3] Memory is life, writing is breath. *L'Osservatore Romano*, January 26, 2021.

[4] [Visit to the Group Home "Viva gli Anziani"](#), 2 November 2012.